OH, KAY
CHATTING WITH QUEEN OF LG FASHION WEEK {page 23}

TORONTO metro®

Wednesday, March 30, 2011
www.metronews.ca

News worth sharing.

▶ Prime Minister Stephen Harper meets 10-year-old Maria Aragon yesterday during a campaign stop at her home in Winnipeg.

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Budget pegs billions for schools

▶ Province projects education costs will rise by $2.1B by 2013-14 ▶ Most of which will be spent on enrolling close to 250,000 children in full-day kindergarten

Premier Dalton McGuinty prides himself on being the "education premier" and yesterday's budget opens up 60,000 college and university spots while paving the way for full-day kindergarten.

Calling the Progressive Conservatives "slash and burn" specialists, and describing the NDP as unable to come up with a plan to create jobs, Finance Minister Dwight Duncan said the Liberals have clearly made a commitment to education while the other parties have not.

Educating Ontario's workforce from kindergarten to adult learning is part of the Liberal plan, said Duncan at a budget lock-up press conference.

Creating 60,000 new student spaces at colleges and universities by 2015-2016 at a cost of $309 million annually is part of that plan.

However, students and university faculty members complained the budget does nothing to repair crumbling buildings, reduce class sizes or address student debt loads.

In universities, student-faculty ratios are distorted and students are not getting the attention they need, said Mark Langer of the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations, a group representing 16,000 teachers and researchers.

"They are turning out students like widgets and not really caring about the quality of education they are receiving," he said. "There isn't enough time in a year to meet with people individually."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Plans for your money

Highlights of the 2011 Ontario budget:

- **No new tax increases, decreases or credits** for taxpayers or businesses.
- **Program spending in fiscal 2010 forecast at $113.3 billion**, $2.6 billion lower than expected. Spending projected at $113.8 billion for fiscal 2011.
- **Belt-tightening measures aimed at $1.5 billion in savings over three years.** They include major agencies cutting $200 million by 2013-14 and trimming 1,500 civil service jobs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gaga protege sings for PM

Prime Minister Stephen Harper yesterday enjoyed a private performance by 10-year-old Winnipeger Maria Aragon, who recently became a YouTube sensation for her soulful version of Lady Gaga's hit Born This Way.

PETA sends in naked cavalry

Bare protesters bear message of compassion {page 6}

No weapons for opposition

Leaders agree not to provide arms to Libyan rebels {page 10}

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Data misuse charge against cop dropped

A criminal charge against a Toronto police sergeant was dropped yesterday in a case of alleged misuse of a police database.

Pursuing the case against Sgt. Wayne Lakey of 55 Division would not serve the public interest, Crown lawyer Ken Lockhart told the Ontario Court of Justice.

Lakey was accused of conducting an unauthorized computer check on a resident in his condominium building with whom he was having a dispute.

While the Crown saw a reasonable prospect of conviction, Lockhart said, the sergeant had twice been disciplined internally, had not used the database information for criminal or financial gain, and had not shared the information outside the police department.

The officer, however wrongly, also believed himself to be conducting a quasi-investigation, the lawyer said, a factor further distinguishing the case.

"A terrible decision," said Jeff Green, who brought the charge and earlier police complaints against Lakey.

"This is the wrong message to send to the public. They have chosen, in my opinion, to protect their own."

Green first filed a formal police complaint against Lakey in 2005, when the two lived in the same condominium building. Both were serving on the condo's board of directors, taking opposite sides in a dispute over proposed building improvements.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ANDREW WALLACE/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Jeff Green filed a complaint against Sgt. Wayne Lakey, accusing Lakey of illegally accessing a police database to get information in a tenant dispute.

Alleged Twain stalker nabbed at Juno Awards

Doctor will stay in jail until at least Friday, when he has a bail hearing on the alleged breaches of a previous court order

An Ottawa doctor once accused of stalking Shania Twain remains jailed in Toronto after his arrest at the Juno Awards.

Dr. Giovanni Palumbo, 51, appeared at Old City Hall courts Monday for allegedly breaching a court order to stay at least 500 yards from the singer.

On Sunday, police escorted the man away from the ceremony at the Air Canada Centre, where it is alleged that he was trying to meet Twain.

A member of Twain's entourage reportedly spotted the doctor wearing a Shania T-shirt in the crowd and alerted police.

The court heard that Palumbo had sent the singer letters and flowers, and turned up at her Muskoka cottage on previous occasions. He had earlier been charged with criminal harassment.

Those charges were withdrawn three weeks ago because Twain was unavailable to testify in court.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

College reacts

- Kathryn Clarke, spokesperson with the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons, said the college is aware of the recent charges against the doctor.
- "We certainly monitor the court proceeding and take action if warranted," she said.
- Dr. Giovanni Palumbo remains in good standing with the regulatory body.

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Shania Twain at the 2011 Juno Awards Sunday in Toronto.

1 news

Pro tip: Staff searching for the Bronx Zoo's missing cobra should check her Twitter feed. Scan the code for the story.

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2 Use the ScanLife application on your smartphone to scan 2D barcodes in Metro

3 The codes will direct your mobile browser to relevant content at **m.metronews.ca**

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Gord McIntosh on how the Liberals allowed themselves to be run over by the coalition charge. More at metronews.ca/spindoctor.

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NAPANEE

Inmate guilty of poisoning prisoner

A man serving a double life sentence for murdering two Toronto residents in 1985 pleaded guilty yesterday to manslaughter for the cyanide poisoning death of a fellow inmate at Millhaven Penitentiary in Kingston 12 years ago.

Phillip Vince, 53, admitted that, on July 14, 1999, he laced contraband morphine capsules with cyanide and arranged for them to be given to Scott Barnett, then 24, who was serving a six-year sentence for robberies.

Barnett ingested the capsules and collapsed in the prison yard. He died the following day.

Vince had no personal beef with Barnett but was attempting to "get rid" of him on behalf of another inmate who had abandoned a separate plan to harm him, the Crown attorney said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ward 9 candidate calls for byelection

ANDREW WALLACE/ TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Lawyers for the city argue the irregularities aren't serious enough to require a new election in Ward 9 — York Centre. Maria Augimeri, above, holds the councillor position.

Unsigned voter forms, no proof of ID cited as reasons for a redo

The failure by Toronto elections officials to properly document voters in Ward 9 leaves no choice but to hold a byelection, the lawyer for losing candidate Gus Cusimano argued at a court hearing yesterday

Cusimano lost by 89 votes to incumbent Maria Augimeri in the Downsview-area ward, but he is challenging the election over the handling of people who weren't on the voters' list.

Signatures are missing on 426 of 1,143 forms that had to be filled out to add people to the voting list in the Oct. 25 civic election, said Lorne Honickman, Cusimano's lawyer.

The forms are supposed to be signed by both the voter and an elections official. But in those 426 cases, the forms bear no voter signature, no signature by the official, or both.

There were other problems: In 248 cases, there was no indication that ID was checked; in 118 instances, the voter's birth date was missing.

At the end of the one-day hearing, Justice Alexandra Hoy reserved her decision. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"The integrity of the process wasn't maintained. In our respectful submission, this is a case where elections officers in at least 426 cases failed to comply with legal obligations."
LORNE HONICKMAN, GUS CUSIMANO'S LAWYER

Good Friday clashes with advanced polls

22, 23
The advance polls will be open noon to 8 p.m. Friday, April 22, and Saturday, April 23.

With the federal election looming, churches across the country may find themselves more crowded than usual this Easter.

Elections Canada announced yesterday that advanced polling for the upcoming election is scheduled for Easter weekend.

And with many churches used to opening their doors as voting centres for the community, some are unsure how they will accommodate both voters and worshippers — especially on Good Friday, a solemn day of reflection, when churches often host several services.

"That was pretty stupid, whoever decided that," said Boulos Saleh, pastor of St. Edward the Confessor church in North York, which usually serves as a polling station during elections. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Council votes to keep selling pop at rinks

Soda pop — one; fortified soy beverage — zero.

Toronto rinks and recreation centres will not be going the way of Ontario schools when it comes to the sale of unhealthy beverages in vending machines.

Yesterday, the government management committee rejected a staff recommendation to phase out the sale of sugary drinks from machines in city recreation facilities.

If adopted, it would have followed a provincial decision to ban junk food and unhealthy beverages, such as pop and energy drinks, from Ontario schools starting this fall.

In a 3-2 decision, the committee decided to maintain the status quo: vending machines should carry 50 per cent healthy choices.

The proposal would have limited the available options to milk, fortified soy beverages and 100 per cent juice or vegetable drinks available.

An impassioned Coun. Doug Ford argued that government has no business dictating what kinds of drinks people can buy.

"This is socialism at its best," he said, adding he was working at "socialist city hall."

Ford went on to thank the cola industry for creating jobs and sponsoring city events. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Doug Ford takes a swig of pop to prove his point at a government management committee in this screen grab.

The bottom line

- Committee chair Paul Ainslie said the city stood to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue by canning sugared drink sales, which make up about 70 per cent of the total vending machine sales.
- "When product selection and consumer choice are overly restricted, consumers will simply choose to go elsewhere to purchase their products," said Robert Foy, vice-president for food service with PepsiCo.

2nd man shot dead in east end

Two people have died after being shot in less than 24 hours in Toronto's east end.

Benjamin Owusu Brefo died after being shot Monday night in the Queen Street East and Kingston Road area, while Clifenton Ford died after being shot near Eglinton and Midland avenues. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Teacher facing sex assault charges

A 51-year-old Hamilton teacher is facing charges after allegedly sexually assaulting a student in a classroom. Investigators say a sexual assault took place in February in an unoccupied classroom of the school. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police cleared in fatal shooting of suspect who attacked officer

The Ontario Special Investigations Unit has cleared a Toronto police officer in the fatal shooting of a man who attacked another officer with a machete.

The SIU said officers went to an apartment last October to arrest Amit Krishna, 28, on an outstanding warrant.

Kirshna had been in bed and when he reached into a bag of clothing to get dressed, he pulled out a machete. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Justified

- Investigators say that during an ensuing struggle, Amit Krishna hit an officer with a glancing blow on the head with the weapon.
- Another officer opened fire and Krishna died of gunshot wounds.
- The SIU said the officer was justified in shooting Kirshna because the other officer was in danger.

Man caught in Toronto on national warrant

Police say an inmate who was wanted on a Canada-wide warrant was arrested.

Police apprehended Brian Bingley after he allegedly attempted to get money from an elderly woman under the guise of doing "odd jobs." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Make 'kind choices': PETA

Animal rights organization asks fashionistas not to wear animal skins
Campaign has been endorsed by celebrities, seen at fashion weeks

AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Three PETA volunteers bare all in Toronto, proving they would rather go naked than wear fur."

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) stripped to their undies outside Toronto's LG Fashion Week yesterday to protest designers' use of animal skins.

Outside the Princes' Gates on Strachan Avenue, three volunteers went topless and a handful more passed out leaflets and wielded posters that read "Animals Are Not Ours To Wear."

"We were there to encourage fashion enthusiasts to make kind choices by not wearing fur, leather, wool, or other exotic skins," said Emily Lavender, a PETA campaigner.

"Fashion is supposed to be fun, but there is nothing fun about killing animals for vanity."

The demonstration was part of PETA's I'd Rather Go Naked Than Wear Fur campaign, which has been seen at past fashion weeks and endorsed by numerous celebrities including Pamela Anderson and Christina Applegate.

"PETA always has a presence at fashion weeks around the world," said Lavender.

"The organization likes to get involved with the fashion industry from the inside as well."

Lavender notes that Tim Gunn, a renowned fashion expert known for his role on the hit TV show Project Runway, has made a huge impact by raising awareness about the truth behind the skins industry and encouraging people to pledge to go fur-free.

PETA also recognizes designers and retailers that refrain from using animal skins, including Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren, H&M and Nike.

KYLA SERGEJEW/FOR METRO

PETA facts

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals is the largest animal rights organization in the world, according to its website.

- It has more than two million members and supporters.

Signing on for another election season

KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEW SERVICE

▶ Former city councillor Howard Moscoe may have left politics but he's still flogging lawn signs to candidates.

After about two decades selling election signs to political candidates, Howard Moscoe is in a position to offer a few tips.

The former Toronto councillor never made a secret of his election-sign moonlighting while in office, selling his designs to candidates for municipal as well as provincial and federal office.

The sign maker's son and former art teacher is happy to share a few pointers with candidates running in the federal election.

Firstly, an election sign is meant to advertise the candidate's name, he says.

"The most important part of the sign is your name. An election sign should be designed to be read at 50 kilometres an hour. Many candidates use little tiny type. So people spend a lot of money and buy a lot of cardboard and put a very tiny name on it that can't be read from a car."

In 1994, city council candidate Howard Joy had lawn signs that said, simply, JOY. He won.

Notwithstanding the above, Moscoe says it's best to include your whole name, a lesson he learned in 1982 when another person named Moscoe (no relation) ran against him.

"I made the mistake one election of not putting my first name on my signs. It said 'Re-elect Alderman Moscoe.' A lawyer named Sydney Moscoe put his name in to run and I had to redo all my signs."

While Moscoe woos provincial and federal candidates, most of his business comes from municipal elections.

In the federal election, Moscoe, a New Democrat, is focusing on NDP and Green party candidates, including Rebecca Harrison (Whitby-Oshawa) and Ellen Michelson (Toronto-Centre).

But he still goes after Conservative and Liberal business.

"Their money is as good as anyone's. I may disagree with their philosophy, but I sure like their money. It's business. You do business with all kinds of people."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Early career

Moscoe said he grew up in the graphics business because his father ran a sign company.

- **He attended** the Ontario College of Art and Design and taught art in junior high school.
- "And I know elections, so it was just a natural fit. I used to make my own election signs in the basement. We'd have a big fan in the window (to expel ink fumes) and we'd hang the signs on clothes pegs from the rafters," says Moscoe.

Keeping you in the know and on the GO

Starting Saturday, April 2, we're making changes to some GO Bus services.

16 – HAMILTON QEW GO BUS

We're adding 19 new trips on Saturdays and 27 new trips on Sundays and holidays. There will also be time adjustments on most weekend and holiday trips including earlier departures, so be sure to check the new schedule.

19– OAKVILLE HWY. 403 GO BUS

We're adding eight new weekday trips between the Square One and Finch GO Bus Terminals.

21 – MILTON GO BUS

A new Saturday westbound trip will depart Union Station GO Bus Terminal at 6:30 p.m., serve Meadowvale GO Station, Meadowvale Town Centre, Derry & Winston Churchill, the Milton GO Station, and arrive at Main & Martin in Milton at 7:40.

A new Sunday and holiday eastbound trip will depart Meadowvale GO Station at 12:25 p.m., serve the Streetsville and Erindale GO Stations, Square One GO Bus Terminal, the Cooksville GO Station, and arrive at Union at 1:40.

31 – GEORGETOWN GO BUS

A new weekend and holiday westbound trip will depart Union Station GO Bus Terminal at 11:00 p.m., serve the Malton and Bramalea GO Stations, Steeles & Rutherford, Shopper's World, and arrive at the Brampton Bus Terminal at 11:50.

65 – BARRIE-BRADFORD GO BUS

A new weekday northbound trip will depart Union Station GO Bus Terminal at 2:55 p.m., serve the Aurora Carpool Lot at 3:32, and arrive at the Aurora GO Station at 3:40.

A new weekend and holiday northbound trip will depart Union at 6:40 p.m., serve the Aurora Carpool Lot, the Aurora GO Station, and arrive at the Newmarket GO Bus Terminal at 7:40.

The weekday northbound 4:40 p.m. trip from Newmarket to Barrie will now depart at 4:35 and times will be **5 minutes earlier** at all stops along the route. Customers travelling from Toronto to connect to this trip in Newmarket will now need to take the 3:10 trip from the Union Station GO Bus Terminal instead of the 3:30.

A new weekend and holiday northbound trip will depart Newmarket GO Terminal at 4:15 p.m., serve all stops, and arrive in Barrie at 5:25.

A new weekend and holiday southbound trip will depart Barrie Bus Terminal at 5:55 p.m., serve all stops, and arrive in Newmarket at 7:05.

81 – PORT PERRY GO BUS

The weekday southbound 7:50 a.m. trip from Port Perry will now depart at 7:40 and times will be **10 minutes earlier** at all stops along the route. This change will provide customers with a connection to the 8:31 westbound express train at Whitby GO Station to Union.

94 – OSHAWA HWY. 2 GO BUS

A new Saturday westbound trip will depart Oshawa GO Station at 6:45 p.m., serve all stops, and arrive at the Yorkdale GO Bus Terminal at 8:35.

A new Saturday eastbound bus trip will depart Yorkdale at 9:15 p.m., serve all stops, and arrive in Oshawa at 10:50.

SCHOOL SERVICE REDUCTIONS

Bus service will be reduced on some school routes due to lower ridership during the spring and summer:

- **01 – Lakeshore West GO Bus**
  Sunday and holiday trips from Aldershot to McMaster University will be suspended starting April 27.
- **25 – Waterloo GO Bus**
  Some trips will be suspended starting April 22.
- **29 – University of Guelph GO Bus**
  The weekday eastbound 1:40 and 4:10 p.m. trips from the University of Guelph will be suspended starting April 4 and the Sunday and holiday trips will be suspended starting April 27.
- **31 – Georgetown GO Bus**
  The Friday 1:50 and 5:15 p.m. eastbound trips from the University of Guelph to Brampton will be suspended starting April 22.
- **46 – Hwy. 407 West GO Bus and 52 – Hwy. 407 East GO Bus**
  Some trips will be suspended starting April 4 so be sure to check the new schedules.
- **93 – Durham College/UOIT GO Bus**
  Trip reductions starting April 15, and starting April 30 the service will be suspended.

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News in brief

▶ Stephen Harper

PM talks up tax credit

REGINA. Prime Minister Stephen Harper visited a boating sales and service shop yesterday to re-announce a small business tax credit that failed to launch in last week's ill-fated federal budget. The one-year "Hiring Credit for Small Businesses" would give companies a break on up to $1,000 if their employment insurance costs rise in 2011 over 2010.

The Conservatives estimate the measure would be available to 525,000 employers and save them up to $165 million.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Feds restrict the media

ELECTION CAMPAIGN. The federal government has restricted media interviews of officials in Afghanistan because of the election campaign, a move that one critic says hampers the public's understanding of Canada's mission in the war-torn country.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tory staffer is no longer a volunteer: PM

CONTROVERSY. The Conservatives moved swiftly yesterday to douse a smouldering controversy over why a former staffer under RCMP investigation was allowed to be a campaign volunteer.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced that Sebastien Togneri is no longer involved with the campaign in the key riding of Edmonton-Strathcona. THE CANADIAN PRESS

TWEETING

Big francophone names on Twitter will help build volume of French-language conversation, says analyst

Election 2011

Online buzz around the Canadian election is looking like a unilingual debate — with French-language posts accounting for only about two per cent of election-related messages on the Twitter site.

The Canadian Press analysis, done with digital public affairs strategist Mark Blevis, suggests close to 30,000 political messages have flashed around the microblogging site since the campaign began.

The analysis uses a software program called Sysomos that parses Twitter for messages tagged as being related to the election.

Francophone tweeters also appear to be having different conversations than their anglophone peers when it comes to the election.

While English-language messages, so far, have most often been about coalitions and taxes, francophones have been more likely to discuss the deficit and families.

The style of conversation has also been different in French.

While the majority of English messages are people resending links to published content or other people's thoughts, francophones are engaging in more free-flowing conversation.

About 22 per cent of French messages are replies to other people's musings, compared to 13 per cent in the rest of Canada.

Blevis isn't very surprised by the English-French cultural gap.

"We're going to expect to see some differences — especially since the majority of Quebec is represented by the Bloc Québécois, so there is going to be different issues," said Blevis.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Twitter talk

About 4.5 million Canadians use Twitter.

- **The service** launched in English in 2006 and rolled out a French version in 2009.
- **In the English-speaking world,** Twitter received a major boost in the 2008 U.S. presidential election when Barack Obama adopted the service as part of his election strategy.

May could be shut out of TV debate

If the television broadcasters get their way, there will be no election debate sequel for Green party Leader Elizabeth May.

The broadcast consortium that hosts the televised debates has decided May is not welcome to participate this time.

Consortium spokesman Marco Dube said yesterday only the four leaders whose parties are represented in the House of Commons — Conservative, Liberal, NDP and Bloc Québécois — have been invited to take part.

The Green party has yet to elect an MP to the Commons.

Dube said the five host broadcasters — CBC, Radio-Canada, CTV, Global and TVA — "unanimously decided they wanted to invite the four parties that have representation in the House."

Green spokesperson Camille Labchuk said the party will fight once again for May's inclusion.

"Fundamentally, we expect to be treated like the other national parties," she said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Elizabeth May

GETS POLITICAL

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ NDP Leader Jack Layton addresses the crowd yesterday at campaign event in Brantford. Layton promised to deal with household debt by putting a cap on credit card rates. The federal election will be held May 2.

Layton would cap credit card interest charges

Jack Layton wants to take on growing family debt loads by capping the interest credit card companies can charge.

He says financial institutions shouldn't be able to charge consumers at an interest rate of more than five percentage points above prime.

"Under Stephen Harper, Canadians pay some of the highest credit card fees in the world," Layton said as he kicked off a tour through southern Ontario.

"I say families now deserve a break."

It's the NDP's first policy announcement of the election campaign, targeted mainly at the middle-class families whose votes are so crucial come election day.

Layton made the promise — one he's been talking about for years — standing outside a family home in Brantford, where unemployment remains stubbornly high.

He says the NDP's cap on interest rates would save the average credit card holder about $60 a month or $720 a year.

But while almost no one will deny that household debt levels are worrisome these days, capping credit card rates wouldn't be much help, says an economist who keeps close track of consumer finances.

19.9% **Many credit cards carry an interest rate of 19.9 per cent — a figure that held fairly steady despite the steep drop in other rates during the recession.**

Benjamin Tal, deputy chief economist at CIBC World Markets, agrees with Layton that credit cards don't follow the pattern of other interest rates. In other words, when prime lending rates dropped quickly during the recession, credit card rates remained high.

But that's because those high rates don't just cover the cost of borrowing, Tal says. "Credit cards don't follow interest rates, but it's because of all the goodies you get."

Financial institutions charge a premium on some cards since they include options such as insurance. Consumers choose this type of package, but could choose a card with lower rates. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Add taxes & fees $343

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World leaders won't help arm Libyan rebels

Agree Gadhafi must go, but stop short of active support for rebels Qatar will help market oil

World powers agreed yesterday that Moammar Gadhafi should step down after 42 years as Libya's ruler, but did not discuss arming the rebels who are seeking to oust him.

Top diplomats from up to 40 countries met for crisis talks yesterday in London on the future of the North African nation, but British Foreign Secretary William Hague told reporters the subject of arming rebels simply did not come up.

He said Libya was under a UN-mandated arms embargo and that the restrictions "in our view apply to the whole of Libya."

Hague's comments suggest that the UN-backed coalition cobbled together to defend civilians from Gadhafi's onslaught is still hanging back from throwing its entire weight behind the ill-organized rebels, whose exact make-up and motives remain unclear.

Rebel retreat

Libyan government tanks and rockets pounded rebel forces — who attempted an assault on Moammar Gadhafi's hometown of Sirte — into full retreat yesterday.

Opposition fighters fleeing in a panicked scramble pleaded for international airstrikes that never came.

But Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Jabr al-Thani seemed to leave the door open to arms sales when he suggested that the issue might be revisited if the aerial campaign fell short of its stated goal of protecting Libyan civilians.

Qatar, which has recognized the rebels as Libya's legitimate representatives, also plans to help them sell crude on the international market. Yet while there has been talk of using Qatar to market Libya's oil for days, details have remained sketchy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Britons cope with wedding fatigue

There's still a month to go until the royal wedding and yet some Britons are already asking: Is it over yet?

While millions around the world are following every detail of the wedding planning — the guest list, the cake, the carriage, the dress — others are desperately trying to tune it out.

For many British businesses, the wedding is good news — bringing in extra tourists, giving a boost to hotels, restaurants, shops and royal-related tourist attractions.

But there also will be an exodus, with several million Britons heading abroad, thanks to the lucky timing of the wedding day — a holiday for most — between the Easter weekend and the May Day public holiday. Clever employees quickly calculated they could get an 11-day break by taking only three days off work.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Daniil Korotkikh found a bottle with a letter on a beach in the village of Morskoye, 80 kilometres northwest of Kaliningrad, Russia.

VIKTOR GUSEINOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Message in a bottle found 24 years later

Nearly a quarter-century after a German boy tossed a message in a bottle off a ship in the Baltic Sea, he has received an answer.

A 13-year-old Russian, Daniil Korotkikh, was walking with his parents on a beach when he saw something glittering in the sand. "It looked like a German beer bottle with a ceramic plug, and there was a message inside," he said.

His father, who knows schoolboy German, translated the letter, carefully wrapped in cellophane.

It said: "My name is Frank, and I'm five years old. My dad and I are travelling on a ship to Denmark. If you find this letter, please write back to me, and I will write back to you."

The letter, dated 1987, included an address in the town of Coesfeld.

The boy in the letter, Frank Uesbeck, is now 29. His parents still live at the letter's address.

The Russian boy and the German man met each other earlier this month via an Internet video link.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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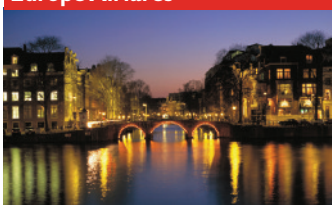

Amsterdam
$199

Travel May 4 - May 10/ts — + taxes & fees $406

London — $99
Travel Jun 17 - Jun 29/wg — + taxes & fees $482

Paris — $194
Travel Apr 26 - May 6/ts — + taxes & fees $439

Dublin — $299
Travel Apr 28 - May 6/ts — + taxes & fees $321

Rome — $349
Travel Jun 19 - Jul 3/ts — + taxes & fees $391

Barcelona — $469
Travel Apr 30 - May 8/ts — + taxes & fees $382

Athens — $529
Travel Apr 24 - May 2/ts — + taxes & fees $433

Prague — $539
Travel May 11 - May 20/af — + taxes & fees $505

Canada Airfares

Vancouver
$199

Travel Jun 16 - Jun 20/wg — + taxes & fees $306

Ottawa — one-way $69
Travel May 4/ac — + taxes & fees $65

Halifax — one-way $129
Travel May 4/ac — + taxes & fees $73

Victoria — one-way $209
Travel May 4/ac — + taxes & fees $89

St John's — $229
Travel Jun 22 - Jun 29/wg — + taxes & fees $282

Whitehorse — one-way $424
Travel May 4/ac — + taxes & fees $137

Airfares

Fort Lauderdale
$39

Travel Apr 7 - Apr 14/ts — + taxes & fees $278

Cozumel — $65
Travel Apr 6 - Apr 13/wg — + taxes & fees $347

Orlando — $69
Travel Apr 7 - Apr 14/ts — + taxes & fees $279

St Lucia — $199
Travel Apr 3 - Apr 10/ts — + taxes & fees $305

Chicago — $239
Travel May 4 - May 11/dl — + taxes & fees $133

Costa Rica — $369
Travel Apr 4 - Apr 25/c6 — + taxes & fees $310

Los Angeles — $419
Travel May 4 - May 11/ac — + taxes & fees $125

Honolulu — $559
Travel May 4 - May 11/dl — + taxes & fees $125

Rio de Janeiro — $799
Travel Apr 20 - May 4/ua — + taxes & fees $433

Bangkok — $819
Travel Apr 20 - May 10/ua — + taxes & fees $327

Sydney — $999
Travel Apr 20 - May 11/nz — + taxes & fees $499

Fiji — $1198
Travel Apr 20 - May 11/fj — + taxes & fees $392

Family Special

Niagara Falls
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$85◊

Crowne Plaza Niagara Falls — taxes & fees included

INCLUDES fallsview room accom with views of the American Falls. Price is per person based on a family of 4. Travel Apr 21/ggv.

Orlando Air + 7 Nights — $159◊
Champions World Resort — + taxes & fees $280

INCLUDES accom near theme parks. Price is per person based on a family of 4. **BONUS** transfers to theme parks included. Departs Apr 7/ggv/ts. **ADD** 5-day *Walt Disney World* Resort *Magic Your Way* Base Ticket for $256 per adult/$231 child.

All-inclusive Vacations

Varadero
7 Nights 4-Star
$187

Hotel Villa Cuba — + taxes & fees $276

Departs Apr 4/nol/ts.

Jamaica 7 Nights 4-Star — $447
Holiday Inn Sunspree — + taxes & fees $340

Departs Apr 2/nol/ts. **UPGRADE** to the 5-star Riu Montego Bay from $67 per night.

Punta Cana 7 Nights 4-Star — $497
Grand Paradise Bavaro — + taxes & fees $388

Departs Apr 4/nol/ts.

Costa Rica 7 Nights 4-Star — $527
Allegro Papagayo — + taxes & fees $310

Departs Apr 4/nol/c6. **UPGRADE** to the 5-star Riu Guanacaste from $71 per night.

Mayan Riviera 7 Nights 5-Star — $658
Grand Sirenis Mayan Beach — + taxes & fees $343

Departs Apr 7/vat/c6.

Antigua 7 Nights 3-Star — $748
Rex Halcyon Cove — + taxes & fees $291

Departs Apr 9/vat/c6.

St Lucia 7 Nights 4-Star — $898
Smugglers Cove Resort and Spa — + taxes & fees $305

Departs Apr 3/vat/c6.

Barbados 7 Nights 4-Star — $1529
Almond Beach Village — + taxes & fees $101

Departs Apr 5/wsv/ws.

Unique Vacations

Belgium
7-Day River Boat
$739

Nieuwpoort - Bruges - Ghent route — taxes & fees included

INCLUDES self-drive boat charter in the rivers and canals of Belgium with bedding, bathroom, kitchenette and sundeck. Price based on group of 4. Damage waiver and one way fee are included in price. Travel May 14/leb.

Southern France
7-Day River Boat — USD $899
Canal du Midi — taxes & fees included

INCLUDES self-drive boat charter in the waterways of the Canal du Midi with bedding, bathroom, kitchenette and sundeck. Price based on group of 4. Damage waiver and one way fee are included in price. Travel Apr 29/leb.

Europe

London
Air + 2 Nights 4-Star
$481

Kensington Close — + taxes & fees $482

INCLUDES central Kensington accom with breakfast. Departs May 9/vat/ts.

Frankfurt & Berlin
Air + 7 Nights + Rail — $979
Movenpick Hotel Frankfurt, Citadines Berlin — + taxes & fees $477

INCLUDES 3 nights 4-star Frankfurt accom, 3-day German Rail Pass and 4 nights apartment style accom in Berlin. Departs May 7/thn/ggr/ts.

Scotland
Air + 6 Nights 4-Star + Golf — $1039
Erskine Bridge Hotel — + taxes & fees $482

INCLUDES air to Glasgow, roundtrip airport transfers, 6 nights accom, golf course transfers, 2-rounds of golf at Renfrew Golf Course & 3-rounds of golf at your choice of 6 courses. **BONUS** hot buffet breakfast & choice of lunch or dinner daily plus bottle of wine & fruit bowl upon arrival. Departs Jun 21/vat/ts.

Ireland Air + 7 Nights 4-Star + Golf — $1269
Roganstown Hotel & Country Club — + taxes & fees $385

INCLUDES air to Dublin, roundtrip airport transfers, 7 nights accom, golf course transfers, 2-rounds of golf at Roganstown Golf Course & 3-rounds of golf at your choice of 5 courses. **BONUS** hot buffet breakfast daily plus bottle of wine & fruit basket upon arrival. Departs Jun 6/vat/ts.

Algarve Air + 15 Nights 4-Star — $1529
Pestana Levante, Thistle London Heathrow — + taxes & fees $432

INCLUDES clifftop resort-style in Armacao de Pera. **BONUS** buffet breakfasts included. Departs May 3/ggv/ba.

Vacations

Bermuda
Air + 7 Nights 5-Star
$1499

Fairmont Hamilton Princess — + taxes & fees $199

INCLUDES roundtrip airport transfers and 7 nights 5-star accom on the shores of Hamilton Harbour. Departs May 12/wsv/ws.

Goa & London Air + 11 Nights — $1699
Montana Kensington, Pearls Oceanique Resort — + taxes & fees $670

INCLUDES 3 nights 3.5-star London accom and 8 nights 4-star beachfront resort-style accom in Goa. Departs Apr 14/vat/ggv/9w.

Costa Rica Air + 9 Nights + Tour — $1799
Hotel Presidente, Riu Guanacaste — + taxes & fees $410

INCLUDES air to San Jose, 2 nights San Jose accom, 6-day Costa Rica tour and 7 nights 5-star Liberia all-inclusive accom. **TOUR HIGHLIGHTS** La Fortuna, Manuel Antonio & Quepos. Travel San Jose to Manuel Antonio. Departs May 9/gap/thn/ggv/dl.

Argentina Air + 8 Nights 4-Star — $2049
Melia Buenos Aires, Panoramic Hotel Iguazu — + taxes & fees $744

INCLUDES 6 nights Buenos Aires accom and 2 nights Iguazu Falls accom. Departs Apr 18/ggv/ua/ar.

Peru Inca Trail
Air + 4 Nights 7-Day Tour — $2139
Novotel Lima, Eco Inn Cusco — + taxes & fees $424

INCLUDES all air, 2 nights Lima accom, 7-day Inca Trail tour and 2 nights Cusco accom. Departs May 22/ggv/itp/la.

Canada

Vancouver
Air + 4 Nights
$599

Sandman Hotel City Centre — + taxes & fees $306

INCLUDES accom in downtown Vancouver. Departs Jun 16/ggv/swg. **ADD** Vancouver Lookout Admission for $15.

Newfoundland Starter Package
Air + 2 Nights 4-Star — $454
Delta St. John's Hotel — + taxes & fees $282

INCLUDES accom in downtown St John's with views of St John's Narrows. Departs June 22/ggv/swg.

Halifax Air + 3 Nights — $569
Citadel Halifax Hotel — + taxes & fees $149

INCLUDES accom in the heart of downtown. Departs Jun 10/ggv/ws. **ADD** historic Halifax City Tour for $62.

USA

Las Vegas
Air + 3 Nights
+ 2 Show Tickets
$309

Circus Circus — + taxes & fees $125

INCLUDES accom on the Las Vegas Strip. Departs May 8/ggv/dl. **BONUS** includes 2 show tickets to a select Cirque du Soleil or Las Vegas show of your choice.

Chicago Air + 3 Nights — $454
Chicago's Essex Inn — + taxes & fees $118

INCLUDES accom in downtown Chicago on the Magnificent Mile. Departs May 29/ggv/dl. **ADD** hop-on and hop-off trolley for $50.

Boston Air + 3 Nights — $599
The Midtown Hotel — + taxes & fees $119

INCLUDES accom centrally located to downtown Boston. Departs May 29/ggv/aa. **ADD** Boston City Pass for $50.

New York City Air + 3 Nights — $715
Excelsior Hotel — + taxes & fees $116

INCLUDES accom close to Central Park. Departs Apr 25/ggv/aa. **ADD** theatre tickets to *Billy Elliott, Mamma Mia!, Memphis* or *Phantom* for $129.

Cruises

Bahamas 4-Night Cruise — USD $289
Monarch of the Seas — + taxes & fees USD $59

CRUISE roundtrip Port Canaveral and visit CocoCay & Nassau.

Southern Caribbean
7-Night Cruise — USD $369
Carnival Victory — + taxes & fees USD $67

CRUISE roundtrip San Juan and visit St Thomas, Barbados, St Lucia, St Kitts & St Maarten.

Mediterranean
5-Night Cruise — USD $599
Liberty of the Seas — + taxes & fees USD $92

CRUISE roundtrip Barcelona and visit Cannes, Livorno (Florence/Pisa) & Civitavecchia (Rome).

Hawai'i 7-Night Cruise — $1058
Pride of America — + taxes & fees $93

CRUISE roundtrip Honolulu and visit Maui (overnight), Hilo, Kona & Kauai.

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U.S. reviews nuclear issues

As a result of Japan's nuclear crisis, government regulators are reviewing a wide range of issues potentially affecting the 104 U.S. nuclear reactors, including their ability to protect against natural disasters and terrorist attacks, respond to complete power blackouts and cope with accidents involving spent fuel.

A top official with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission says a 90-day review, ordered by U.S. President Barack Obama, will include recommendations for possible changes to inspection procedures, licensing review and emergency communications.

Bill Borchardt, the NRC's executive director for operations, told the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee yesterday that U.S. nuclear plants continue to operate safely.

He said progress is being made at Japan's damaged Fukushima nuclear plant, but could not guess how long it will take to bring the plant under control.

80%

In January's state of the union address, Obama said he wants 80 per cent of U.S. electricity to be generated by clean energy sources by 2035.

Obama has long said that oil and gas remain critical components of U.S. energy policy, while also promoting clean energy technologies like wind, solar and nuclear.

Nuclear power has come under more intense scrutiny in recent weeks after an earthquake and tsunami in Japan severely damaged a nuclear power plant there. Despite the uncertainty at that facility, Obama says he remains committed to developing nuclear power in the U.S. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NOT GOOD

Latest problem came early today, when three workers at damaged reactor were splashed by radioactive water

EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Japan's government admitted yesterday that its safeguards were insufficient to protect a nuclear plant against the earthquake and tsunami that crippled the facility and caused it to spew radiation, and it vowed to overhaul safety standards.

The struggle to contain radiation at the Fukushima Dai-ichi complex has unfolded with near-constant missteps — the latest including two workers drenched with radioactive water despite wearing supposedly waterproof suits.

The March 11 tsunami that slammed into Japan's northeast, wiping out towns and killing thousands of people, knocked out power and backup systems at the coastal nuclear power plant.

More than 11,000 bodies have been recovered, but officials say the final death toll is expected to exceed 18,000. Hundreds of thousands of people remain homeless, their homes and livelihoods destroyed. Damage could amount to $310 billion — the most expensive natural disaster on record.

"The situation is very grave"
CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY YUKIO EDANO

The unfolding drama has drawn increasing criticism of the utility that owns the plant as well as scrutiny of Japan's preparedness for nuclear crises.

"Our preparedness was not sufficient," chief cabinet secretary Yukio Edano told reporters. "When the current crisis is over, we must examine the accident closely and thoroughly review" the safety standards.

An Associated Press investigation found that Tokyo Electric Power Co. officials had dismissed scientific evidence and geological history that indicated a massive earthquake — and subsequent tsunami — was far more likely than they believed.

That left the complex with nowhere near enough protection against the tsunami.

The mission to stabilize the power plant has been fraught with setbacks, as emergency crews have dealt with fires, explosions and radiation scares in the frantic bid to prevent a complete meltdown.

The plant has been leaking radiation that has made its way into vegetables, raw milk and tap water as far away as Tokyo. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ENOUGH: JAPAN

▶ Members of the Japan Ground Self-Defence Force pray for victims of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami at a mass gravesite yesterday in Yamamoto, Japan.

PM faces more criticism with nuclear crisis in its third week

Prime Minister Naoto Kan reiterated in a speech to parliament that Japan was grappling with its worst problems since the Second World War.

"This quake, tsunami and the nuclear accident are the biggest crises for Japan" in decades, said Kan, dressed in one of the blue work jackets that have become ubiquitous among bureaucrats since the tsunami. He said the crises remained unpredictable, but added, "We will continue to handle it in a state of maximum alert."

Kan has faced increasing criticism from opposition lawmakers over the handling of a nuclear disaster stretching into a third week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"We cannot let you (Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan) handle the crisis. We cannot let you be in charge of Japan's crisis management."
LAWMAKER YOSUKE ISOZAKI

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Facebook pulls page calling for armed uprising

Page urged Palestinians to take to the streets May 15

Facebook removed a page calling on Palestinians to take up arms against Israel yesterday.

The page, titled Third Palestinian Intifada, had more than 350,000 fans when it was taken down. "Judgment Day will be brought upon us only once the Muslims have killed all of the Jews," a quote from the page read.

"After the publicity of the page, more comments deteriorated to direct calls for violence," said Andrew Noyes, Facebook's public policy communications manager.

In a letter last week to Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, Israeli cabinet minister Yuli Edelstein said the page included calls to kill Jews.

"I asked Mr. Zuckerberg that the red lines of freedom of expression and incitement and violence should not be crossed," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Revolution

- Jerome Barron, a law professor, said that as a private concern, Facebook does not fall under the guidelines of U.S. freedom of expression legislation and is free to decide on its own policies.

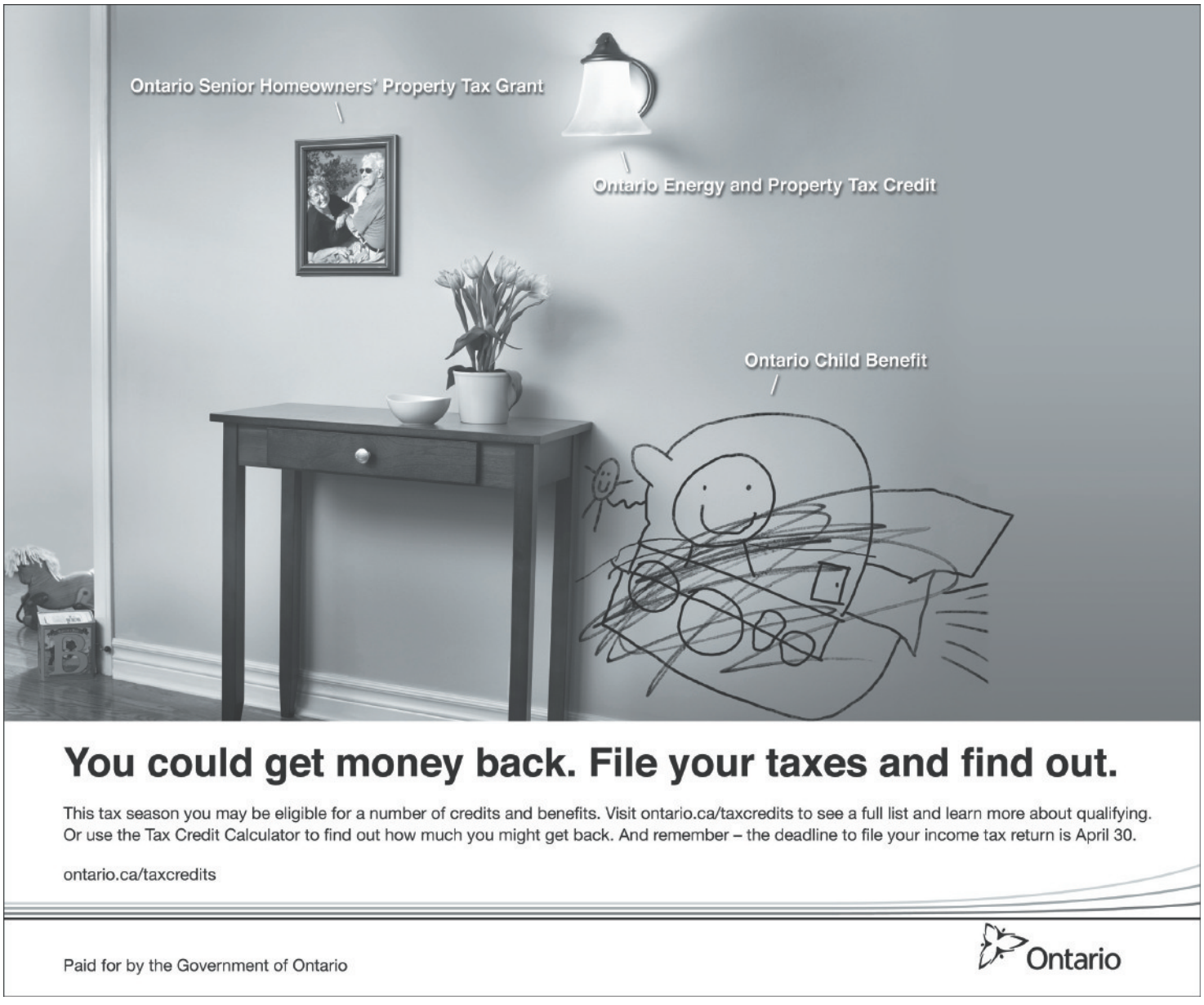
Syria. A rare compromise

▶ A Syrian soldier waves his national flag as another man holds a portrait of President Bashar al-Assad yesterday in a show of support in Damascus.

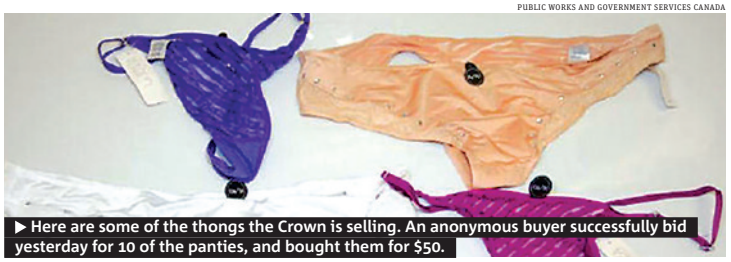
LOUAI BESHAR/GETTY IMAGES

Leader offers minor concessions as dissent rattles the country

Facing an extraordinary wave of popular dissent, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad fired his cabinet yesterday and promised to end widely despised emergency laws — concessions unlikely to appease protesters demanding sweeping reforms in one of the most hard-line nations in the Middle East.



PUBLIC WORKS AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES CANADA



▶ Here are some of the thongs the Crown is selling. An anonymous buyer successfully bid yesterday for 10 of the panties, and bought them for $50.

Crown improves its bottom line

Women's thongs are among the recovered items Public Works and Services Canada is selling

It gives a whole new meaning to Crown assets.

The government of Canada, in its ongoing quest to balance the books, is selling off government property, including — ahem — ladies' thong underwear.

After all, the Conservative government has vowed to eliminate the deficit four years from now. Property seized by or forfeited to the Crown must be disposed of.

Why, last year alone, they raked in $14 million.

Public Works and Services Canada's website is currently displaying a range of sexy thongs that come in pink, magenta, violet, blue, silvery black, white and nude.

The thongs, along with a pile of bras, were among items stolen from an Ottawa lingerie boutique that had been recovered by the Ottawa Police Service.

The shop owner's stolen inventory had already been covered by the store's insurance company, so the police handed the proceeds of crime over to be sold by the federal public works department.

Public Works gets a small commission on the "open and transparent" sale, and the cops get the proceeds, which are re-invested in education programs. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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India	2.9 ¢/min	U.A.E	14.9 ¢/min
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NASA FILE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ This photo taken Jan. 28, 2004, shows NASA's exploration rover Spirit when communication problems began.

Spirit ignores NASA

Rover parachuted to Mars in 2004 Worked beyond original three-month mission during which it discovered geologic evidence of water on red planet

The prospect of ever hearing from the Mars rover Spirit is fading after it failed to respond to repeated calls from Earth.

Despite the dismal outlook, NASA will make a last-ditch effort to communicate with Spirit, which fell silent a little more than a year ago. If there's still no contact in the next month or so, the space agency will scale back its listening campaign for Spirit and focus on its healthy twin, Opportunity.

The fact that Spirit has not called home suggests something is more seriously wrong than just a power issue, said program manager John Callas at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.

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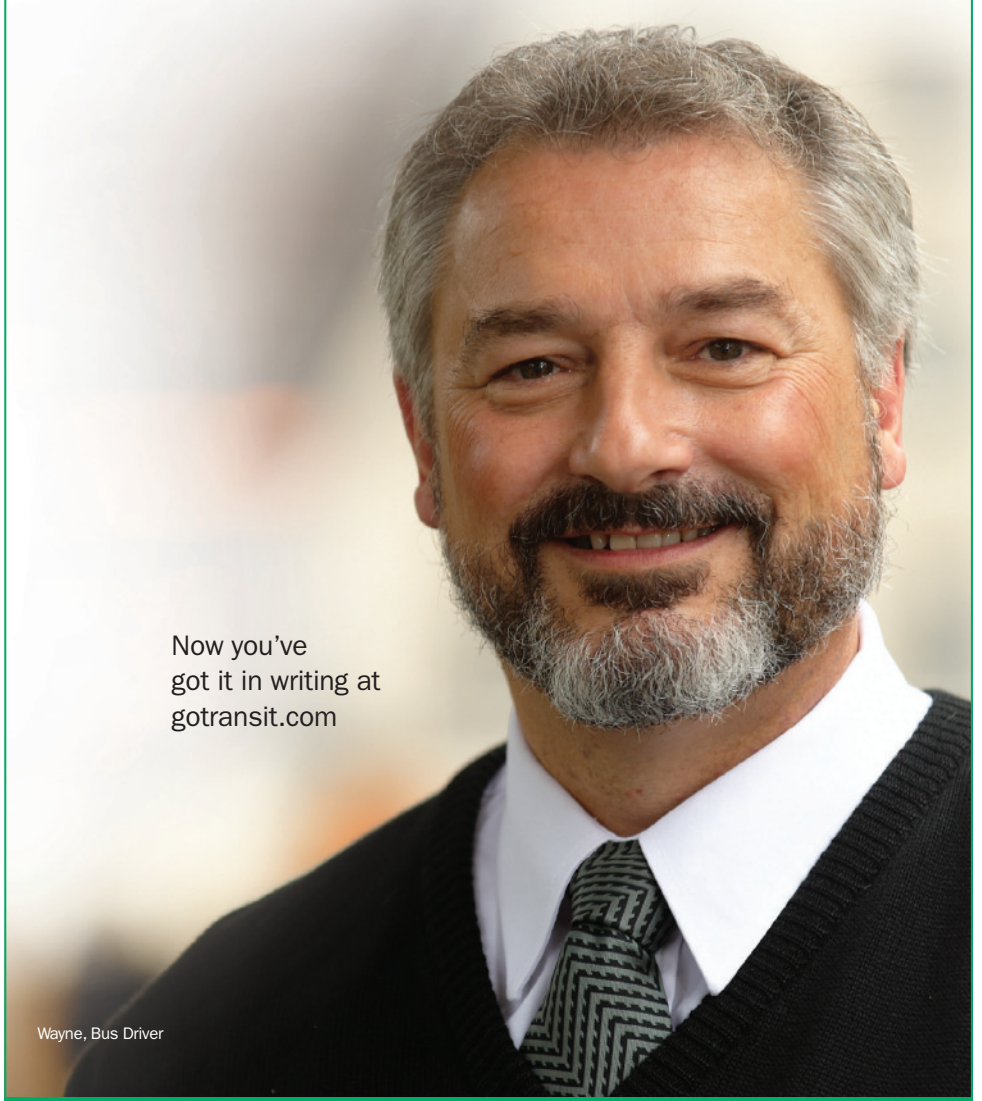

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11 Shiites resign from Bahrain parliament

20 At least 20 people have been killed during a month of political unrest in the Gulf nation.

Bahrain's parliament accepted the resignations of 11 lawmakers from the Shiite opposition yesterday, a sign the political crisis and sectarian divisions are deepening in the tiny Gulf kingdom.

The state-run Bahrain News Agency reported the 40-member house approved the resignations of 11 Al Wefaq legislators. They and seven other lawmakers from the party submitted resignations last month over the deadly crackdown on anti-government protests. BNA said parliament postponed deliberations on the six other resignations.

In a statement yesterday, the Shiite opposition called on supporters to continue challenging the Sunni monarchy's monopoly on power with acts of disobedience such as public mourning of "the martyrs who died to achieve the legitimate rights for Bahraini people."

Al Wefaq is the largest of seven opposition Shiite parties.

The opposition declared Saturday an official day of mourning.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Authorities nab suspect in bombing

A senior Indonesian al-Qaida terror suspect wanted in the 2002 Bali bombings has been arrested in Pakistan, regional intelligence sources said yesterday, in a major scalp for the international campaign against Islamist extremists.

Few details were released about the arrest of Umar Patek, but it appeared to be the result of cross-border co-operation. After the 9-11 attacks, several top al-Qaida operatives were arrested in Pakistan, but in recent years there have been few known high-profile arrests.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Umar Patek is seen in this undated poster.

Patek, a suspected member of the al-Qaida-linked militant group Jemaah Islamiyah, is believed to have served as the group's deputy field commander in the nightclub bombings that left 202 people dead, many of them foreigners.

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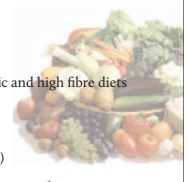

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RICCARDO DE LUCA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A judge must now decide whether George Clooney and Elisabetta Canalis are to testify at Berlusconi's trial.

Clooney for the defence?

Actor named as witness at Italian prime minister's prostitution trial
Clooney's girlfriend denies the couple attended Berlusconi's parties

George Clooney, the Italian foreign minister and a bevy of showgirls are among 78 witnesses that defence lawyers want to testify at Silvio Berlusconi's prostitution trial, which opens April 6.

Clooney was listed because the teenager at the heart of the scandal, known as Ruby, told investigators she had seen the Hollywood star and his Italian girlfriend, Elisabetta Canalis, at one of Berlusconi's dinner parties. An email to Clooney's representative wasn't immediately answered.

Berlusconi, 74, is accused of having paid for sex with Ruby, who was 17 at the time, and then using his influence to try to cover it up.

Prosecutors, for their part, have asked to hear from 136 witnesses, including Ruby and 32 other women who allegedly worked as prostitutes during parties at Berlusconi's villa outside Milan.

A judge must now decide which witnesses to admit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kidnapped German doctor faces French murder trial

A retired German doctor who was kidnapped and left in front of a French courthouse on the orders of a grieving father went on trial in Paris yesterday for the killing of a teenage girl 29 years ago.

The unusual trial is the culmination of a decades-long battle between two men, in two countries, now both in their 70s.

Dieter Krombach lived in freedom for years after his 15-year-old stepdaughter, Kalinka Bamberski, was found dead in her bed in July 1982 in his home in Germany.

The girl's father, Andre Bamberski, believes Krombach gave his daughter a dangerous injection to make her lose consciousness so he could rape her, leading to her death.

France convicted Krombach in absentia in 1995 and sentenced him to 15 years in prison. Germany did not extradite him or press charges, saying there was insufficient evidence. Krombach has denied wrongdoing.

In 1997, Krombach pleaded guilty to drugging and raping a 16-year-old girl in his office. Other German women have told investigators they were drugged and abused by Krombach in the 1980s.

Then, in 2009, Krombach was kidnapped from his German town, tied up and dumped near the courthouse in the eastern French city of Mulhouse. Andre Bamberski later acknowledged involvement, and was charged with kidnapping.

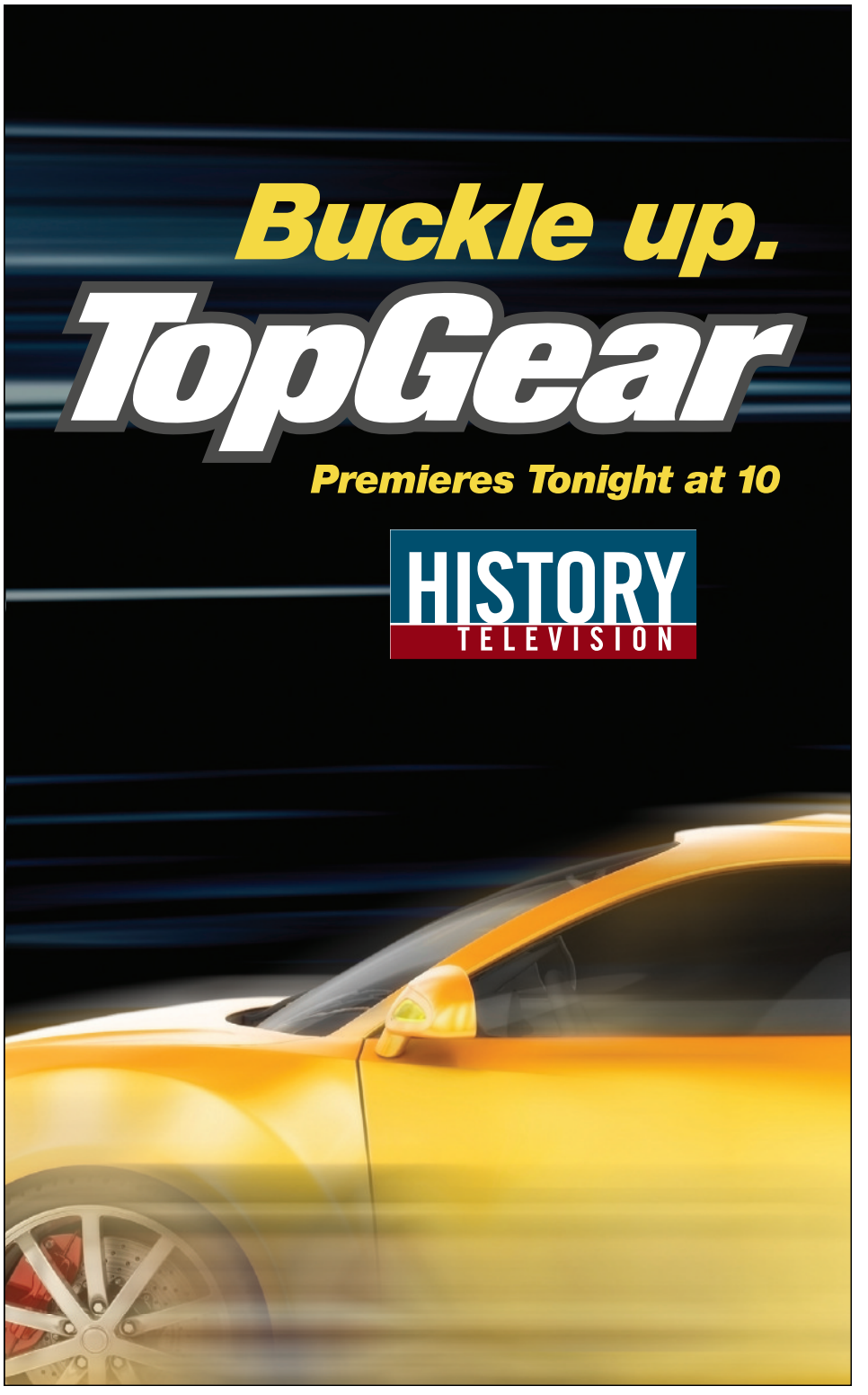
Bamberski's lawyer argues that the circumstances under which Krombach arrived in France are "irrelevant," and the French judicial system should try him.

Krombach's lawyers yesterday asked the judge to suspend the proceedings and seek a European Court of Justice ruling on whether the trial is valid.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REMY DE LA MAUVINIERE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Diana Gunther, Dieter Krombach's daughter, arrives at a Paris courthouse yesterday for her father's trial.



CLASS ACTION

Fix is in on card fees: Lawsuit

Visa, MasterCard and the country's biggest banks conspired to fix the fees charged to businesses that accept payment by credit card, a class-action lawsuit alleges. Mary Watson, a furniture store owner in Vancouver, filed the lawsuit in the Supreme Court of B.C. on behalf of merchants who accept credit cards. Under the current model, credit card companies and banks charge a fee that varies depending on the type of card. Greg McMullen, the plaintiffs' lawyer, says the lawsuit seeks to allow businesses to decide which cards they accept and whether to add a surcharge for premium points and rewards cards. The banks and credit card companies deny the allegations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 37.62 (13,930.35)	+ 0.20¢ (102.6¢ US)

Oil	Natural gas 1,000 cu ft
+ 81¢ US ($104.79 US)	$4.263 US (– 18.5¢ US)

Gold contracts $1,416.20 US (– $3.70 US)

Canadians fret about finances

Consumer confidence fell sharply this month as Canadians worried about their financial security, the Conference Board of Canada said yesterday. Confidence fell to 83.7 from 89.3 in February, and about one-quarter of Canadians said their financial situations have worsened over the past six months. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mad caps drive up Internet bills: Netflix

ADRIEN VECZAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ "The ISPs that want caps, they want to be able to charge more, they want to be able to have bigger bills," Netflix CEO Reed Hastings says.

ISPs should not charge dollars per gigabyte in overage fees, CEO says

Canadian Internet providers are using data caps to inflate their profits, not provide better service, Netflix CEO Reed Hastings says.

The video-streaming company has released a plan to combat low downloading allowances, but Hastings said yesterday that customers shouldn't have to ration their data use. The true cost of that data is less than a penny per gigabyte and shrinking, he said, though Internet providers have disputed that figure.

On Monday, Netflix reeled out options to control consumption of data. Users can still watch a movie or TV show with the best available quality, which can take more than two gigabytes per hour to stream. But a new default setting — at a lesser quality — will consume only 300 megabytes per hour. Watching 30 hours of content a month would transfer about nine gigabytes of data, which Hastings notes would come under the caps of most Internet plans.

"Internet traffic is extremely cheap and the problem is there's not much competition and that's why you get these big prices."
REED HASTINGS, NETFLIX CEO, ON DATA-CAP BILLS

U.S.-based Netflix, which launched in Canada in September, is on track to add its one-millionth Canadian customer this summer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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IT'S THE END OF RELIGION AS WE KNOW IT

Just sayin'

PAUL SULLIVAN

Lost in the manufactured frenzy of the fourth federal election call in seven years is a much more important story.

According to a mathematical formula devised by a bunch of professors, Canada is one of nine countries losing its religion.

The others include the usual godless suspects: The Netherlands, the Czech Republic and Finland, but included a couple of surprises, such as Ireland, which has only recently emerged from mandatory catechism classes, and Switzerland, land of theologians. Australia and New Zealand, who have already sent the Queen packing, are also in danger of tossing God off the cart.

It's a progression and if we keep telling the census we don't belong to any organized religion, there eventually won't be any organized religion. It's a self-fulfilling prophecy, which explains perhaps why the Harper Government (trademark registered), a champion of organized religion, sank the long census form and its snoopy religion questions.

Don't ask, don't tell.

If you are a regular churchgoer, you won't like the way it's going. More than half of young Canadians aged 15 to 29 claim to have no religious identity. In 100 years, we will all be sleeping in Sunday morning.

The same thing is going on, though to a lesser degree, in the more God-fearing U.S., where 25 to 30 per cent of 20-somethings have no religious affiliation.

The reason? They're tired of right-wing geezers hijacking the agenda and are voting with their feet.

Speaking of right-wing geezers, Pope Benedict XVI is still making pronouncements from the Vatican.

I suppose that's his prerogative when it comes to matters moral, although recent musings on condoms from a celibate 83-year-old white guy didn't do much to enlighten the faithful.

But that hasn't stifled his enthusiasm for pronouncements. Not long ago, he dabbled in quantum physics and claimed to have it on good authority that God was behind the Big Bang — the creation of the universe.

You have to ask: How does he know? Especially because Stephen Hawking, the world's foremost quantum physicist, says the universe was able to kick-start itself thanks to the law of gravity. No God involved.

Take it on my authority, says the Pope, but according to the aforementioned professors, just sayin' it doesn't do it any more.

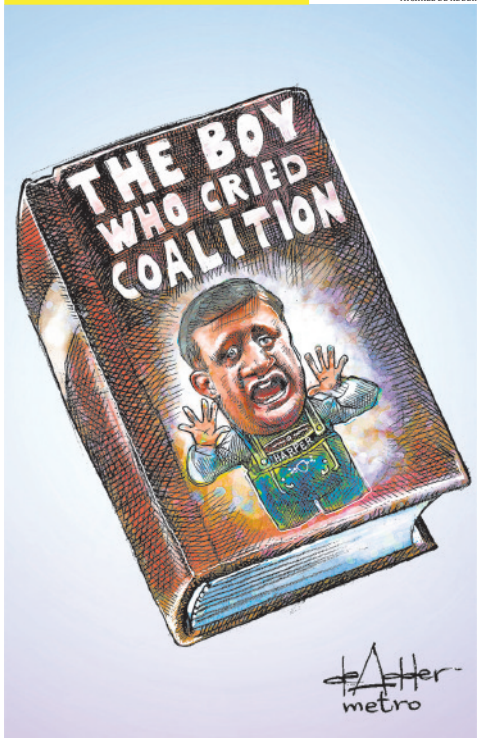
Too bad that hasn't stopped Hawking himself from making baseless pronouncements not grounded in science: He warned recently that humankind should avoid contact with aliens at all costs, since they're likely to be equipped with superior firepower — and hostile.

Not sure why. Maybe God has abandonment issues and he's on their side.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER



Cheer up, it's good news

Worth mentioning

Good news begets better people.

That's the conclusion of new research from the University of British Columbia that says people are inspired to do good by reading media stories about selfless acts by Good Samaritans, instead of negative stories.

Lead author Karl Aquino says the news media has a tendency to celebrate bad behaviour, citing the coverage of the recent exploits of Charlie Sheen and articles that focus on crime.

He said four separate studies found a direct link between a person's exposure to media accounts of extraordinary virtue and their yearning to change the world.

In one experiment, people exposed to stories of uncommon goodness gave 24 per cent more money to charity than those exposed to reports that were merely positive.

Aquino said the findings could have implications in crisis situations like the recent disasters in Japan, because focusing on examples of extraordinary goodness within the crisis may be a more effective way to encourage people to help than inundating them with stories of desperation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Inspirational

How do you unwind after a hectic day?

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Metro Minute at One Of A Kind Show

Sure, you can decorate your entire home with Ikea's spring collection: It's easy, affordable, and functional stuff. Just be prepared to share the same interior decor with millions of college students around the country. Don't feel bad. Sven looks lovely in your living room. The trick is to find unique accents that will distinguish your den from a dorm room. The One Of A Kind Show can help you with that. Starting today at Exhibition Place's Direct Energy Centre, more than 450 artisans will set up shop to display their original wares. The five shopping neighbourhoods feature everything from jewelry and crafts to furniture, and will undoubtedly provide your sofa, Pernilla, with a beautiful accoutrement. JORDANA DIVON

CONTRIBUTED

▶ The One Of A Kind Show features everything from jewelry and crafts to furniture. Visit oneofakindshow.com for more info.

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HANDOUT

▶ Hop director Tim Hill credits Russell Brand's voicing of the lead animated character for bringing the movie an edgier feel.

Down the rabbit hole

Russell Brand-voiced renegade hare draws the audience into this altered children's tale
Hop blends family entertainment with an edgier approach for this physical comedy flick

STEVE GOW
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

There have literally been hundreds of portrayals of Santa Claus in cinema. But the Easter Bunny — not so much. But with this Friday's release of Hop, things may finally change for the egg-hiding hare.

"I don't think the Easter Bunny ever sparkled in Hollywood's mind as a character that could be explored and just kind of be invented, whereas Santa has its own myth," said Hop director Tim Hill. "(Everyone knows) there's supposed to be this Easter Bunny that delivers baskets and we have Easter egg hunts but that's about it so it presents an opportunity to create your own mythology."

In Hop's case, that means inventing a secret world on Easter Island where the Easter Bunny and his chick workers craft candy and painted eggs year-round. It also means that when it comes to his son taking over the family business, the Russell Brand-voiced renegade rabbit runs away to play rock and roll.

"It's hard to imagine having made the movie, doing it without Russell Brand because he brings that edgy side to it," said Hill, who admits there was plenty of adlibbing in the recording studio. "His mind works so fast; he wants to alter the line and play with it and he wants to improve it. My philosophy with him was to let him bring what he wanted to bring because most of it is great."

"It's hard to imagine having made the movie, doing it without Russell Brand because he brings that edgy side to it."
TIM HILL

Hill is a slight renegade himself. Having majored in French literature, family entertainment was not his life's agenda. But with hits like Alvin and the Chipmunks behind him, it's certainly proven an area of expertise.

"I love to see kids laugh," said Hill. "And I've always been a big fan of physical comedy. I just think there's a whole visual side of comedy that all ages appreciate, but especially kids."

Nuance

Tim Hill on Russell Brand:

Quote "If you can keep him within the parameters of a family movie, he really is a good actor," said Hill of Russell Brand. "He was able to get all those nuances and it makes a complex character and I think that's a big part of what makes an animated character work."

2 scene

Rosie

The Oprah Winfrey Show is shutting down at the end of the season, but the lights won't be going out at Winfrey's studio in Chicago. That's because Rosie O'Donnell's new talk show will be produced at Harpo Studios on Chicago's West Side. O'Donnell is slated to return to daytime TV this Fall on OWN.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scoop! Perez Hilton has deal for children's book, 'The Boy With Pink Hair'

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Hauntings like poltergeist are Insidious

Working off the success of Saw, writer Leigh Whannell is back with something more puzzling Director James Wan takes inspiration from the classics

CHRIS ALEXANDER
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Insidious is a new — yet decidedly old-fashioned — horror thriller that is as dark and malevolent as its title suggests and yet, despite having pedigree bearing the mark of one of the cruelest film franchises in history, it's not a gorefest. In fact, it's something that is a rather rare thing in the genre today: scary.

"We were trying to first and foremost make a really scary movie," says director James Wan, a filmmaker who, along with Insidious writer Leigh Whannell, made history with their massively successful 2001 thriller Saw.

"That was the problem with new horror movies, none of them were scary anymore. It's all false scares and loud music, nothing like William Friedkin did with The Exorcist or Stanley Kubrick did with The Shining. No more craft."

Insidious tells the chilling tale of a young couple (played by Rose Byrne and Patrick Wilson) whose lives are torn apart when their young son is possessed by evil ghosts intent on destroying everything decent.

And while the film draws its strength from many sources, including the fluid visuals of Italian horror and the classic chill of ghost stories like Burnt Offerings and The Others, Wan and Whannell's clearest inspiration is Tobe Hooper's Poltergeist.

"There are a lot of influences in the movie," Wan admits, "and for sure, Poltergeist was a major one. But unlike Poltergeist, Insidious was made independently and for a much lower budget.

Based on the strength of Leigh's script, I was able to literally assemble my wish list cast and that's what makes it so good, I think,"

HANDOUT

▶ In this shot from the film, Patrick Wilson comes to the realization that there's something very wrong.

Said cast also includes indie queen Lin Shaye (Detroit Rock City) and actress Barabara Hershey, herself a former lead in one of the most revered supernatural dramas of the 1980's. "We're big fans of The Entity," notes Wan.

"That's why we actually have Barbara use the word 'entities' in the movie. It was something that we just had to do."

Thor star feels like he won the lottery

Chris Hemsworth is turning the mighty Thor's fall from grace into his own personal rise to Hollywood stardom.

Hemsworth stars in the title role of Thor, the Marvel Comics superhero adaptation that opens May 6 to lead off what is expected to be a season of summer blockbusters.

The 27-year-old Australian actor joined distributor Paramount Pictures to show off footage of Thor to theatre owners Monday night at their CinemaCon convention in Las Vegas, where Hemsworth will receive an award Thursday as male star of tomorrow.

After a six-month casting process, Hemsworth said he felt as if he had won the lottery when he got the role as the fallen Norse god, particularly given his colleagues on Thor. Among them: Oscar winners Natalie Portman and Anthony Hopkins and director Kenneth Branagh.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Chris Hemsworth

"As a young actor being in this town, prior to this, it was knocking on doors and auditioning and going on the rounds," Hemsworth said in an interview. "This has sort of set me up, hopefully, for more of these films and opened other doors."

With Thor still weeks away from its premiere, Hemsworth is already heading back to the set to reprise the role in the ensemble superhero adventure The Avengers, due out in 2012. The film teams Hemsworth's Thor with other big-screen Marvel Comics idols, including Robert Downey Jr. as Iron Man, Chris Evans as Captain America and Mark Ruffalo as the Incredible Hulk.

The Thor footage shown at CinemaCon chronicles the fall of the hero from Asgard, the realm of the Norse gods. Cocky and quarrelsome, Thor is cast out by his father (Hopkins) and banished to learn some humility among mortals on Earth, where he falls in with a team of scientists that includes Portman.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

HOPPING TO EASTER'S BEST

There are as many different kinds of Easter movies as there are colours on the most psychedelic Ukrainian Easter egg. From kid friendly romps like Hop, this weekend's comedy for kids about an errant Easter Bunny, to the rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar to all-singing all-dancing spectaculars like Easter Parade to sword-and-sandal epics like Ben Hur and solemn retellings of the biblical Easter story like The Greatest Story Ever Told.

Then there are horror films like Easter Bunny, Kill Kill and the terrifying Easter Bunny from Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey… so many diverse takes on Easter, but since there's no way to watch all these movies on Easter weekend, let's hippity-hop through a list of the bunny's greatest hits.

Controversial in its time — fundamentalist Bob Jones III denounced it as "blasphemy" without actually watching the film — Jesus of Nazareth, director Franco Zeffirelli's epic 1977 mini-series is now considered a classic. Clocking in at a whopping 382 minutes, it's a reverent look at Jesus's life from his birth to resurrection starring heavyweights like Laurence Olivier, Anthony Quinn, Anne Bancroft and Christopher Plummer.

From the sacred to the sublime, It's the Easter Beagle, Charlie Brown continues Charles Schultz's tradition of providing a story for every holiday, both secular and spiritual.

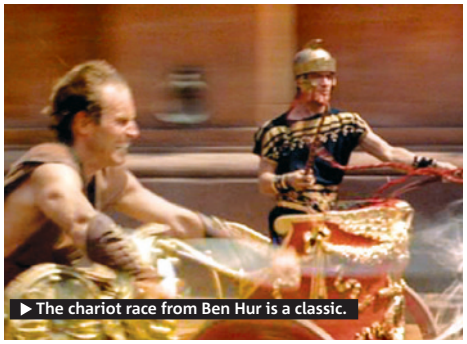
The 12th Peanuts cartoon special sees Linus try to hype up the arrival of the Easter Beagle but only Sally believes him. The rest of the gang is still unsure in light of Linus's Great Pumpkin Halloween fiasco. This special, now available on DVD, features one of the only times Snoopy ever spoke on screen. He shouts "Hey!" before dancing with bunnies in a fantasy sequence.

Fred Astaire, the legendary song-and-dance-man, was no stranger to holiday entertainment.

His Christmas special Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town is a Yuletide favourite but he also appeared in no less than three Easter themed movies and TV shows. Astaire's movie, Holiday Inn, the 1942 story of a singer who turns his farm house into a dinner theatre on the holidays, is best known for introducing Bing Crosby's White Christmas, but also produced the tune Easter Parade, which turned up six years later in the hoofer's film of the same name.

Finally, years later he played the narrator in the Rankin/Bass stop motion animated The Easter Bunny's Coming to Town. Set in Kidville, the most child-friendly place on Earth, it is the story of how the Easter Bunny came to be.

HANDOUT



▶ The chariot race from Ben Hur is a classic.

60 seconds

SUBMITTED

ROBIN KAY

"I HAVE WATCHED CANADIANS FALL IN LOVE WITH FASHION"

LG Fashion Week's grand dame gives us the lowdown on this season's spectacle, and reveals which shows she's most excited to see.

What's your idea of the perfect collection?
A perfect collection would consist of a great product, a vision for where the product will be sold, great marketing and PR, solid management and an understanding of budget and how it should be spent getting their collection out to the masses.

Are there any designers whose collections you're particularly looking forward to seeing?
I look forward to seeing all the collections, but I am looking forward to Montreal designer Denis Gagnon's show. He is a veteran and an incredible designer in every sense.

How about new talent: Who's on your radar?
Fresh local talent Anu Raina. I had a sneak peak at her beautiful hand-printed and hand-dyed collection … and I am looking forward to seeing it come to life in the Studio. Also looking forward to two designers living in NYC, but originally from Canada: Sid Neigum (Alberta) and Heather Lawton (P.E.I.).

Where would you still like to take Fashion Week if you could?
I would like Fashion Week to continue to be the calling card for designers both in Canada and beyond.

JORDANA DIVON

Fashion Week flares at Exhibition Place

- Weeks kicks off with eclectic mix for fall-winter collections
- Host Jeanne Beker praises northern style

Toronto's LG Fashion Week spanned the geographical boundaries of style Monday night, kicking off festivities with an expansive display of designs from diverse talents making waves on both sides of the border and beyond.

There was a collaborative spirit to the launch of the 24th season of the biannual fashion showcase billed as the second biggest in North America.

The launch of fall-winter 2011-2012 collections on the grounds of Exhibition Place led off with a creative collective of Canadian designers and labels capped off by a pair of individual presentations from two separate creative style duos.

For the second consecutive season, luxury retailer Holt Renfrew opened the week-long style extravaganza with its capsule exhibition of hot homegrown talents in its designer collective dubbed You Just Can't Live Without ... Canadian Fashion, which included Lida Baday, Jeremy Laing and UK-based Canadian designer Todd Lynn.

A short film featured some of the designers and behind-the-scenes creators of the clothing among those hamming it up and lip-synching to Takin' Care of Business prior to the presentation. Design duo Kirk Pickersgill and Stephen Wong showed draping isn't just for the ladies, with loose-fitting sleeved tops and cowls in black and grey from their menswear label, Ezra Constantine.

"Nothing warms my heart more than seeing the incredible talent Canada has to offer"
JEANNE BEKER, HOST

They punched up the colour with their womenswear line, Greta Constantine, with rich purple velvet gaucho pants, and a mix of sleek outerwear pieces including boiled wool cocoon coats and swing jackets in black and grey.

Vancouver-based Wings + Horns brought more casual looks to the fore with thermal down vests, zip duffle jackets, crew sweaters, pullovers and cardigans teamed with slim-fitting jeans, chinos and camo pants.

Outerwear company Canada Goose brought the latest incarnations of their ubiquitous fur-trimmed hooded bombers, jackets and parkas steeped in bluish grey, brown, bright red and hot pink hues.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Online

LG Fashion Week runs until Friday.
Online:

▶ lgfashionweek.ca

THE CANADIAN PRESS/CHRIS YOUNG

▶ A model shows a creation by Denis Gagnon during Holt Renfrew's Can't live without Canadian Fashion show during Toronto Fashion Week on Monday.

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Celebrity tweets

Charlie Sheen [@charlie-sheen] Like a Dinosaur Stampede from middle earth RAGING atop Col. Kilgore's main rotor, our assault must be EPIC. The Truth is our rocket fuel.

Albert Brooks [@Albert-Brooks] I used to feel a sense of accomplishment when I wrote a screenplay, or a book, or had a child. Now I'm going for sentences here. Damn.

Eliza-beth Banks [@ElizabethBanks] I was rocking a new denim shirt, feeling pretty cute until the huz mentioned I looked like an off-hours Jay Leno. G'bye new shirt.

Eliza Dushku [@elizadushku] Damn you Pirates Booty! (just ate the whole bag by accident)

METRO

N.Y. hotels balking at the Sheen show

Big hotels refusing to house Charlie and Co. as speaking tour kicks off

Charlie Sheen is coming to New York for his speaking tour, but first he needs to find a place to stay — and no hotel in the city wants him, according to Page Six.

"Many of the big New York hotels don't want the drama," a source says. "He is now looking at renting a private residence."

But a source close to Sheen claims the problems have all been logistical.

"The real issue is finding him a hotel that allows smoking. He has to be able to smoke," the source says. "And it's hard to find a place that will accommodate him, plus his entourage that will be more than 30, including the lighting people and of course the goddesses."

METRO

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES FILE

▶ Charlie Sheen

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▶ Prince Harry

Royals manage to keep William's bachelor party a private affair

It looks like Prince Harry has what it takes to be a great best man for his older brother, Prince William, as the young royal managed to host William's bachelor party over the weekend without the press finding out.

"Yes, Prince William celebrated his stag over the weekend," reps for the royal family say.

"The location remains private but it was in the U.K."

But at least one source is being a bit more specific, telling Us Weekly it was a private affair.

"The stag weekend was at (friend and Prince Charles' godson) Hugh Van Cutsem's father's estate in Norfolk. Very private but a nice big group of friends."

METRO

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DANCAP OFFERS A NEW WAY TO EXPERIENCE THEATRE IN TORONTO page 3

SECOND CITY BRINGS COMEDY PARTY TO A NEW AUDIENCE page 6

MLSE HELPS PROVIDE SPORTS & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH OF ALL ABILITIES page 10

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Keith Roberts and Karine Plantadit, Atlanta Cast of COME FLY AWAY.

JOAN MARCUS

Donny Osmond and Marie Osmond performing live in Las Vegas.

ERIK KABIK

Colm Wilkinson in concert.

DIARMAID FRAIN

Diana DeGarmo as Doralle Rhodes, Dee Hoty as Violet Newstead and Mamie Parris as Judy Bernly in 9 TO 5: THE MUSICAL.

JOAN MARCUS

BLOCKBUSTER ARTISTS, AWARD-WINNING MUSICALS AND FLEXIBLE OPTIONS

A NEW WAY TO EXPERIENCE THEATRE IN TORONTO

Toronto-based, Tony Award®-winning commercial theatre company Dancap Productions is offering Torontonians Captivating Broadway Theatre®, plus a new way to purchase subscriptions for any budget.

Dancap's new 'Flexi-Subscriptions' allow customers to create their own theatre series, starting with a minimum of three shows for as low as $38 each (including service charges and tax). Customers can purchase well in advance of the general public, enjoy exclusive cost savings and access to the best seats in the theatre.

Dancap's upcoming shows are all Canadian debuts. Arriving at the Toronto Centre for the Arts in June is *9 To 5: The Musical*, starring Diana DeGarmo from American Idol. Called the "the perfect post-work indulgence" by the New York Post, this is a musical comedy about friendship and revenge in the Rolodex era. Based on the immensely popular 1980 film of the same name, it features Dolly Parton's original hit title song, along with her new Tony Award- and Grammy-nominated score.

Donny and Marie Osmond will bring their distinctive talents and undeniable charm to Toronto for a very limited run at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts this July. Much like the TV show that made them teen phenoms, *Donny & Marie Live* showcases their vast musical legacy, including their most loved songs; "Paper Roses," "Puppy Love," "Go Away Little Girl," and more in a multi-media spectacle featuring a rock band, a crew of backup dancers and show-stopping production numbers, plus audience interaction and the Osmonds' trademark sibling teasing. "There's something to be said for performers who remain unapologetically true to themselves and to the variety-show format that gave them their biggest success." (Hollywood Reporter)

From the director of *Rent* and winner of the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, comes the Broadway success, *Next To Normal*. Playing at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, *Next To Normal* stars the Tony Award-winner, Alice Ripley. *Next To Normal* is a musical with a contemporary score about family members trying to take care of themselves and each other. "A brave, breathtaking work of muscular grace and power. It is much more than a feel-good musical; it is a feel-everything musical." (New York Times)

Returning to the Toronto stage for two special performances is Colm Wilkinson, a celebrated star on Broadway, in London's West End and here in Canada. *Colm Wilkinson In Concert: Broadway And Beyond* is an evening of song with this award-winning actor and musician, the original London and Broadway star of Les Misérables and the record-breaking star of the Canadian production of The Phantom of the Opera. Colm will perform songs from both these musicals, plus a mix of Broadway standards, pop hits, Irish ballads and more.

The summer really heats up with the "spectacular and dazzling" (New York Times) *Come Fly Away*, a Broadway musical that brings together the music of Frank Sinatra and the creative vision of Tony Award-winning choreographer Twyla Tharp (Movin' Out). Come Fly Away features the vocals of Ol' Blue Eyes, big band sound, and 15 of the world's best dancers to tell the story of four couples experiencing the exhilaration of a first kiss, the excitement of a first dance, and the bittersweet moments of a first good-bye, all against a soundscape of classics, including "Fly Me To The Moon," "My Way," and "That's Life."

Dancap's offerings continue with the smash-hit new musical comedy based on that devilish, delightful clan, The *Addams Family; Memphis*, the 2010 Tony Award-winning musical about the birth of Rock 'n' Roll; and the groundbreaking new musical, *American Idiot*, based on Green Day's blockbuster album of the same name.

Visit www.DancapTickets.com/FLEXI to find out more about the entire Dancap series, and use the Flexi-Subscription Calculator to determine the total price (including all service charges and tax) for their ticket packages. Tickets are also on sale for all shows with a group order of 12 or more.

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TORONTO FC

ALL FOR ONE

Dear Toronto FC Fans,

I want to start by thanking you for your commitment to Toronto FC. As we begin a new chapter in the short history of our club, I am excited by the challenge that lies ahead and the opportunity we have to create a long-term winning culture.

On a personal note, this is a great opportunity for me to join a club with great support, and help guide Toronto FC forward to a new era of success. We're a team that is still very young, but our task is to create our own identity, play an attractive style of soccer and build a team that is always going forward.

Joining me in this new era is First Assistant Coach Bob de Klerk. Like me, he moved here from Holland and has a big role to play. We are also pleased to have Director of Player Development, Paul Mariner, whose Major League Soccer experience makes him a valuable resource. Bob and Paul's expertise complements our knowledgeable and experienced management team already in place at BMO Field.

Our first goal is to field a competitive team that will make MLS Cup Playoffs. We want to then challenge for trophies on a regular basis.

Building a successful club however, is more than just the first team. We are committed to developing the next generation of Toronto FC players. Our youth development model will ensure young Academy players from Canada will graduate understanding our new system as they make the jump to the first team. Having professionally grown up in the Ajax system in Holland, I have seen the tremendous benefit of this long term plan firsthand.

I am excited by the new challenges I will face in building Toronto FC to become a force in MLS, but I am also thrilled to be a part of the City of Toronto. Torontonians love soccer and this club's support is second to none in North America. This was one of the reasons I came here, and it is the aim of our new management team to put a side on the pitch you can be proud of.

We look forward to seeing you and experiencing the atmosphere at BMO Field this season. Your support can make a difference. We want you to be our twelfth man.

Warm Regards,

Aron Winter
Toronto FC Head Coach and Technical Director

SECOND CITY BRINGS COMEDY PARTY TO A NEW AUDIENCE

T ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT IS PACKED WITH CLUBS AND TRENDY HOTSPOTS

Lately, one of the hottest spots has actually been a comedy theatre. Why the buzz? Well, The Second City recently opened a new show called *This Party's a Riot!*, and it's found a very receptive audience in the downtown club crowd.

This Party's a Riot! is a wild send-up of a world seemingly out of control. It delivers irreverent social satire, big laughs, and a few surprises that have both audiences and the critics buzzing. The new production opened in early March to a glowing four star review from the Toronto Star as well as sell out crowds.

This follows a trend from their previous show, *Something Wicked Awesome This Way Comes*, which was both a critical and popular success that smashed box office records. The Second City's resurgence comes as the historic comedy theatre is being discovered and embraced by a new generation who may not remember the theatre's early days at the Old Firehall or SCTV, the Emmy-Award winning television spinoff that aired in the late '70s and early 80's. "That's what keeps us fresh" says Second City CEO Andrew Alexander. "Our comedy is re-invented by every new generation of performers, and by the new generation of audience members it speaks to."

That The Second City has successfully remained a popular entertainment destination for 20- and 30-somethings is a testament to the theatre's ability to develop fresh young talent that is engaged in the changing global and local culture. Touching on Middle East revolutions, sexual experimentation, and even zombie boyfriends, *This Party's a Riot* has a broad reach as well as thrilling surprises that, as the Toronto Sun reported, "practically t-boned the crowd." This is certainly not your father's Second City, and that's exactly what keeps it so entertaining.

This Party's a Riot. Now playing every Wed – Sun at The Second City. 51 Mercer St. Tickets $24 - $29. Student $15. 416-343-0011. www.secondcity.com

H
"Second City makes it possible for performers to experience every actor's nightmare—to be in a play and not know what play you're in and what your dialogue is. We do that every night, by choice, at Second City. It inspires a general feeling of delightful hysteria."

THE GREATEST SHOW NEVER WRITTEN?

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Long before Whose Line Is It Anyway? made improv a staple on college campuses, the highly trained, supremely talented, slightly nutty men and women of The Second City were commanding the stage, performing without a script, pulling pieces of comedy gold out of thin air. Done well, the art of improvisation can set off explosive laughter that sweeps across the theatre, and these performers continue to teach thousands of students how to do it, every year, at Second City Training Centres in Toronto, Chicago and Hollywood.

Second City troupes typically perform a fully improvised third act or 'set' at the end of each nightly scripted show—they use these improv sessions to develop sketches for future productions. But beginning next week, things will get tougher for them. Every Tuesday night, cast members will present *The Second City's Improv All-Stars*—an entirely improvised show based on themes suggested or inspired by the audience. It's a chance for the performers, all trained improvisers, to take new risks and stretch their creative muscles.

It's also a chance for some old favourites to return to their roots. Improv All-Stars will provide an opportunity for many members of Second City's impressive alumni roster to make guest appearances. Expect to see a lot of them, plus a few more surprises in the coming months. This is improv, after all—you never know what's going to happen next.

The Second City's Improv All-Stars plays every Tuesday at 8pm, beginning April 5 at The Second City, 51 Mercer St., Toronto. Tickets $20. For more information, phone (416) 343-0011 or visit www.secondcity.com.

Stephen Colbert, on Second City: "I was there for five years, and it was everything to me. It had a great deal to offer me—and still does to anybody who wants to take their stupid seriously."

AFFORDABLE FAMILY FUN

The Second City's not just for grownups. Over the past several years, the legendary comedy theatre has made family programming a priority, offering March Break and holiday shows, curriculum-based school programs and workshops, and camps during the March Break and summertime for grades five through 12.

Now parents can enjoy a laugh with their kids every Saturday morning, too. *The Absolutely Positively Completely Made-Up Show* is an hour of interactive improv and sketch comedy, featuring Second City performers at their family-friendly best: creating characters and scenarios with the help of the girls and boys in the audience. A range of healthy and tasty snacks are available at the theatre.

With tickets for a family a four costing just $40, a visit to Second City's new family show is one of the more affordable outings in Toronto. Birthday party packages are also available.

The Absolutely Positively Completely Made-Up Show plays every Saturday at 11am. Recommended for children aged five to 13. At The Second City, 51 Mercer St. Tickets $12 or four for $40. For more information, phone (416) 343-0011, or visit www.secondcity.com.

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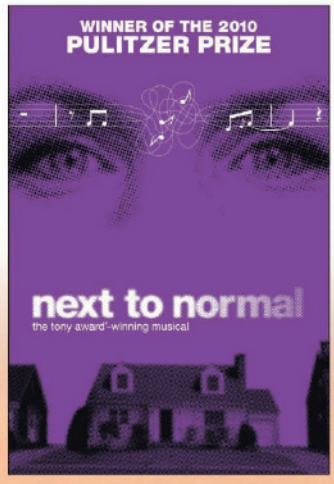

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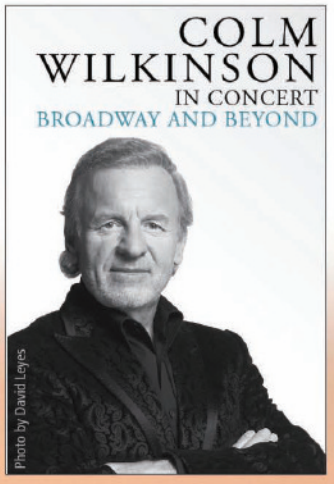
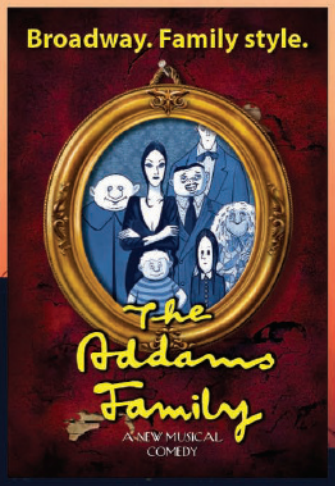


Aug. 12 – 13, 2011

Aug. 16 – 28, 2011



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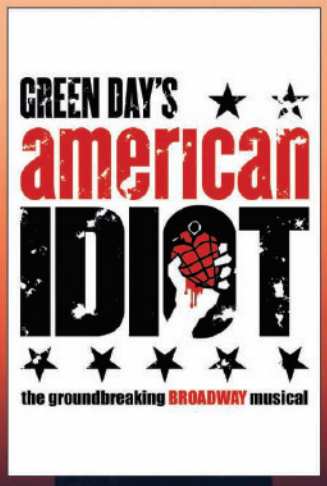

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The MLSE Team Up Foundation is the charitable arm for all four Maple Leaf Sports + Entertainment teams–the Toronto Maple Leafs, Toronto Raptors, Toronto FC and Toronto Marlies. It invests in recreational refurbishments and funds sustainable programs to provide children and youth, of all abilities, with access to sport and recreational opportunities. March was a busy month for the Foundation, here's a glimpse.
www.MLSETEAMUPFOUNDATION.org

CELEBRATING THE 25TH FACILITY REFURBISHMENT

The Foundation recently announced a $250,000 donation to replace the Angela James Arena's dasher boards, provide new skate matting, create a women's dressing room and upgrade the current dressing rooms. Angela James Arena is the Foundation's 25th refurbishment, and Hockey Hall of Famer Angela James and Leafs Alumni Wendel Clark, Mike Gartner and Dick Duff were on hand to celebrate the milestone. The Flemingdon Park community enjoyed a free skate during the event, access to the Leafs FanZone, Hockey Hall of Fame exhibits and snacks, and an autograph session with the Alumni.

ONE NIGHT, 4 TEAMS, ONE CAUSE = A QUARTER-MILLION DOLLARS RAISED

At the inaugural One 4 One event, over 700 fans had the opportunity to meet all the players from the Leafs, Raptors, TFC and Marlies while raising over $250,000 for the MLSE Team Up Foundation. This was a historical event—the first time that NHL, NBA, MLS and AHL teams came together for one night under one roof.

$50,000 DONATED TO REFURBISH SORAUREN PARK PITCH

The Foundation announced its commitment to invest $50,000 toward the refurbishment of Sorauren Park's soccer pitch. The field will be leveled and re-sodded, new player benches installed and storage will be built for the community soccer league.

$120,000 INVESTED FOR NEW VARIETY VILLAGE BASKETBALL COURT

Toronto Raptors players and members of the National Wheelchair Basketball Team were on hand to unveil the Foundation's refurbishment of Variety Village's basketball court. The $120,000 investment toward a new FIBA regulated hardwood centre court will provide the National and Provincial wheelchair basketball teams a place to train, and inspire the Village's grassroots program.

$25,000 DONATED TO REFURBISH BURNHAMTHORPE OUTDOOR RINK

The Foundation joined the Toronto Marlies to announce the refurbishment of the Burnhamthorpe Community Centre outdoor rink. The investment will provide several improvements, including new skate flooring, Plexiglas board completion, installation of protective netting, repairs and improvements to arena board gates and the replacement and addition of plastic benching to the outdoor change area. To celebrate the $25,000 donation, the Marlies held a community practice in front of 400 local kids.

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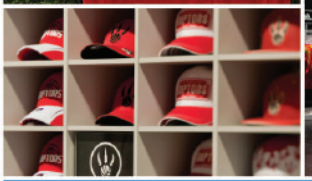

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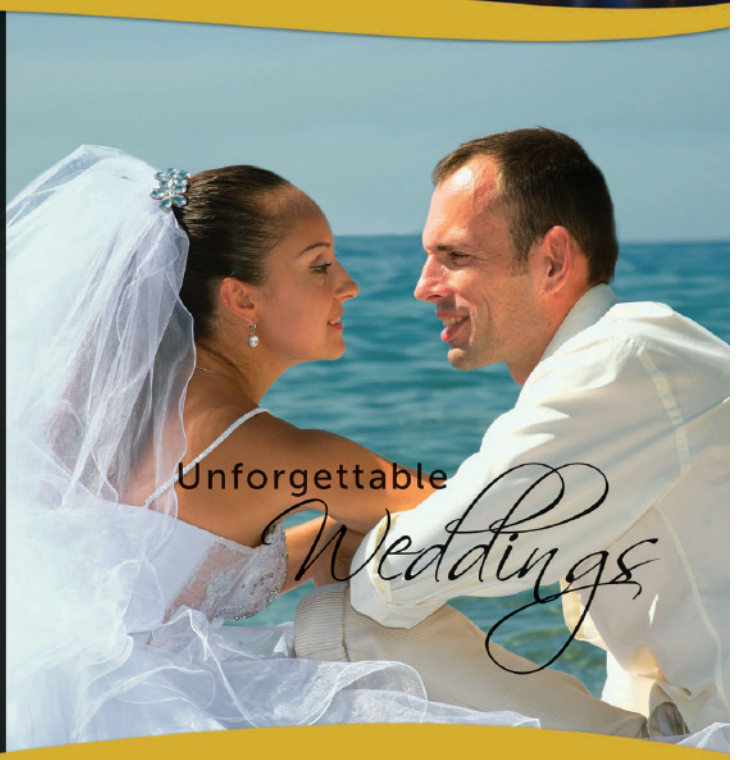

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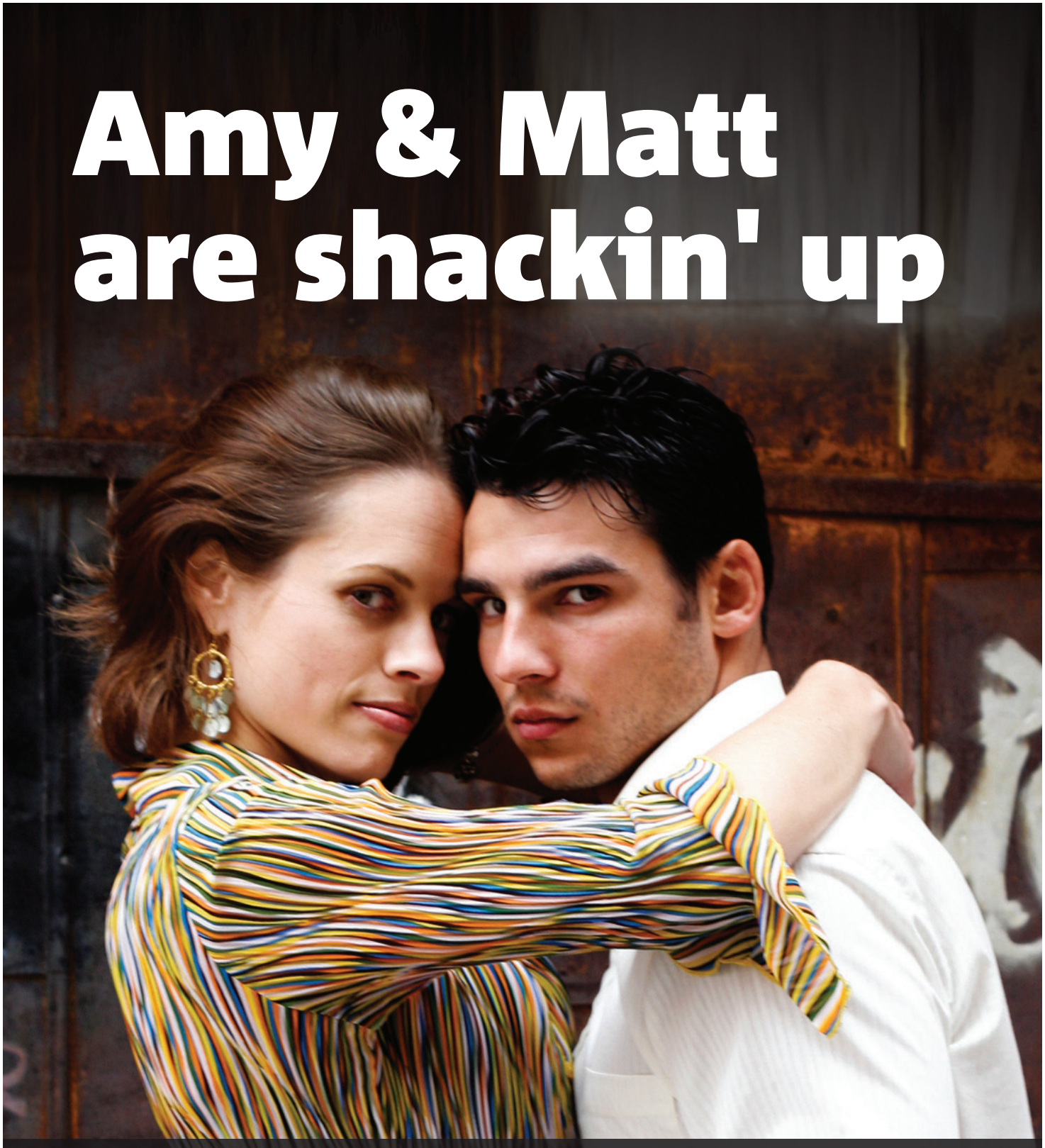

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JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ People walk along the seawall around Stanley Park in Vancouver.

Get out and enjoy Vancouver's spring

The sun is out on Canada's West Coast and there are plenty of great outdoor activities to immerse yourself in Kayak, hike, walk, bike, rollerblade or standup paddle boarding

The cherry blossoms are out, the crocuses are peeking out of the dirt and vitamin-D deficient Vancouverites are blinded by a bright orb in the sky that they have not seen much of since winter began.

Sure, while the rest of Canada suffered through whiteouts and nursed back injuries from shovelling, residents of the West Coast city, for the most part, were in-line skating through the season.

But the arrival of spring is still cause for celebration for locals and visitors coming in from the cold of a real Canadian winter.

From the mountains to the sea and everywhere in between, if you want to take advantage of the best the region has to offer, you better bring good running shoes.

Sea kayaking in Deep Cove

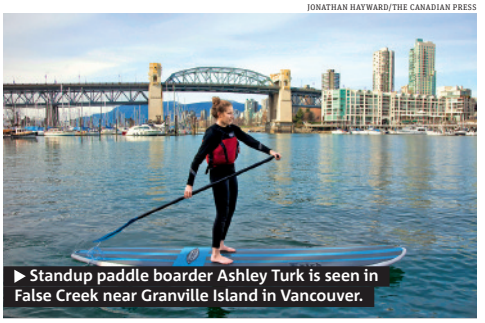
Pack some granola, hop into a kayak and make your way up the Indian Arm, known for its calm waters and stunning vista of the shoreline, forests and mountains. Deep Cove Canoe & Kayak Centre rents equipment and can provide a few basic safety tips to get you on your way.

For more info, visit deepcovekayak.com.

Sweating on the Grouse Grind

At Grouse Mountain every year, thousands of Vancouverites try to outdo each other racing up this gruelling 2.9-kilometre climb.

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Standup paddle boarder Ashley Turk is seen in False Creek near Granville Island in Vancouver.

Plan for about a 90-minute trek, or track your time on the Grind Timer in true local fashion — fastest man's time is 23 minutes 48 seconds, while the fastest woman's time is 34 minutes nine seconds.

For more info, visit grousemountain.com.

Walk, bike or blade the Stanley Park seawall

This popular 22-kilometre pathway stretches along Vancouver's waterfront, from downtown, around Stanley Park, False Creek and Granville Island to Kitsilano Beach.

The best way to get the local experience is to don sunglasses and yoga pants, grab a large Starbucks coffee and head out for a brisk walk while listening to your IPod. A great place to start is at Stanley Park.

For more info, visit vancouver.ca/parks/parks/stanley/seawall.htm.

Stand up and ... paddle

Vancouverites have taken yet another liking to a fast-growing fitness craze.

In standup paddling, a paddler, armed with a long oar, stands on top of a surfboard and navigates the water using strokes as one would in a canoe.

For more info, visit ecomarine.com.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

3 life

Travel in brief

Chinese tourism officials say an agreement signed this week in Richmond, B.C., will help boost travel to Qingdao, China, a coastal city known internationally for its beer. Canadian tour companies will promote travel to the city, while Chinese companies will do the same for Richmond, says a report in the Beijing-based People's Daily Online English edition.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harding Icefield is a rewarding but strenuous day hike in Alaska

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- Canada's capital has more to offer than the same old boring tours of Parliament Hill
- The revitalized ByWard Market area is drawing in visitors with its great food offerings and hip hangouts

GIZELLE LAU/METRO

▶ Le Moulin de Provence bakery offers up Obama cookies along with other tasty baked goods.

GIZELLE LAU/METRO

▶ Enjoying a beaver tail from the first BeaverTails stand, opened in 1980 in ByWard Market.

Explore Ottawa's ByWard Market

GIZELLE LAU
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

Contrary to popular belief, Ottawa is not the same boring city you suffered through on your Grade 6 field trip. In fact, all the recent uproar on Parliament Hill just goes to show that our capital city is anything but dull.

It's Ottawa's historic ByWard Market that has really become one of the city's hottest attractions. Considered one of the oldest farmers' markets in Canada,

ByWard Market was first established in 1826 by Colonel John By, builder of the Rideau Canal. A recent revitalization within the past decade has produced an influx of independent art galleries, eco-friendly stores, cafes, restaurants, bakeries and one-of-a-kind designer clothing shops that attracts an average of 50,000 visitors on a summer weekend, and more than six million per year.

So if you're planning a visit to Ottawa this spring or summer, here are some tried-and-true suggestions for the best food experiences in ByWard Market.

Take advantage of the fresh, local, and seasonal produce from late spring through fall, and visit one of the 260 farmer's market and artisan stands at ByWard Market Square for fresh fruits, vegetables, or maple syrup. While you're at the square, be sure to visit Le Moulin de Provence bakery where you can pick up an "Obama Cookie," made famous by the U.S. President's visit in February 2009.

GIZELLE LAU/METRO

▶ Murray Street restaurant was named one of Canada's 10 Best New Restaurants of 2009.

Named one of Canada's 10 Best New Restaurants of 2009, Murray Street Kitchen Wine Charcuterie offers upper Canadian farmhouse cooking with a nose-to-tail philosophy. Local cheeses, house-made charcuterie, $13 weekend brunch, and plates like "head & shoulders, knees & toes" just goes to show that Murray Street Kitchen is the whole package (and then some).

For something a little more rowdy and prone to sing-alongs, don't miss Friday and Saturday nights at Fat Tuesday's, where you can enjoy some good 'ol fashioned dueling pianos while noshing on typical Louisiana fare like jambalaya, crab cakes or blackened chicken.

Whether it's a giant stack of banana pancakes for breakfast, four-cheese poutine or one of their 12 burger options for dinner, Zak's Diner serves up diner-sized portions of comfort food 24 hours a day, 7 days a week — a favourite amongst University of Ottawa students and those reeling after a wild night at ByWard Market's clubs, pubs and bars.

Last but not least, a trip to ByWard isn't complete without a stop at the world's very first BeaverTails stand, for one of their fried, doughnut–like treats, traditionally topped with cinnamon and sugar.

More info

- **Location.** The market is conveniently located just a few blocks from attractions like the Chateau Fairmont Laurier, Rideau Canal, Rideau Centre, Parliament Hill, the National Gallery of Canada and Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica.
- **Info.** For more information or to plan your trip, go to ottawatourism.ca.

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Florida gets

Orlando area gets another major tourist attraction in October 50 million Lego blocks used in park

Legoland officials said they are counting on the popularity of the little plastic building blocks to draw families to their newest theme park, which will open this fall near Orlando.

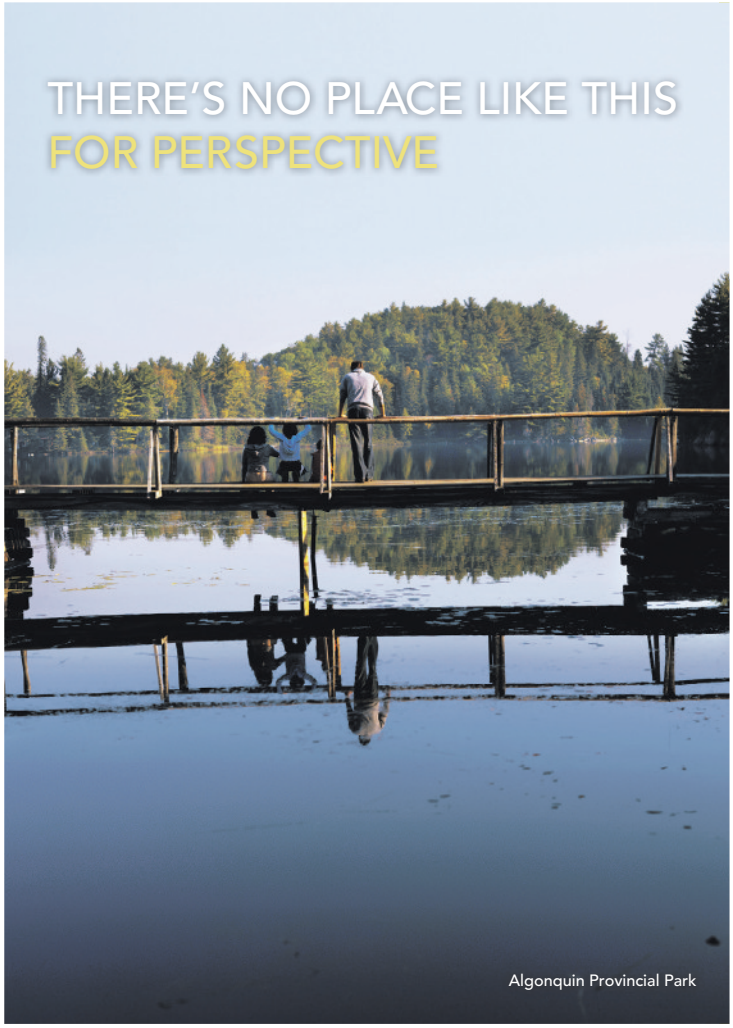
Incorporating as many as 50 million of the iconic Lego bricks in rides and attractions geared toward children two to 12, Legoland Florida is under construction in sleepy Winter Haven, a 45-minute drive south of Walt Disney World and the other main Orlando parks. The opening is planned for October, but a firm date has not been set.

It will be the largest of five Legolands in the world and the only one on the U.S. East Coast, with others in California, England, Germany and Denmark, where the toy company was founded. The 60.7-hectare park is being built on the former site of Cypress Gardens, one of Florida's earliest theme parks. Cypress Gardens opened in the 1930s but closed in 2009, unable to compete with attractions clustered closer to Orlando.

Legoland is retaining the old park's gardens and famous water ski shows, and eventually will add its water park to the mix. Also left over from Cypress Gardens is the Flying Island, which raises riders 53 metres in the air for a bird's eye view of the grounds.

"I think Legoland has its place in the theme-park community," park general manager Adrian Jones said Wednesday, looking out over a vast construction site where roller-coaster tracks hint at what will eventually take shape there. "We focus primarily and always on families with children aged two to 12. And we're good at that. We don't try to be all things to all people."

Besides four gentle roller coasters and other family rides, visitors will get to see Legoland's trademark mod-



See the sights and share a moment in Ontario's Playground.

Whether you're cruising along the Muskoka River at Santa's Village or cruising back in time aboard the RMS Segwun, North America's oldest operating steamship, there's no better place to explore than Muskoka, Georgian Bay, Algonquin Provincial Park and the Almaguin Highlands.

RMS Segwun

Georgian Bay

Santa's Village

Algonquin Provincial Park

For getaway ideas and packages, visit GOHAVEFUN.CA/metro

ONTARIO Yours to discover

a Legoland

CHIP LITHERLAND/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/LEGOLAND FLORIDA, MERLIN ENTERTAINMENTS GROUP

▶ General manager Adrian Jones, centre, as he speaks to the media during a preview tour at Legoland Florida in Winter Haven. The park will be the largest of the five Legolands around the world.

els crafted from Lego bricks, including miniature skylines of famous cities, a castle and jungle animals, with exhibits ranging in size from intricate to life-size to larger-than-life. Of course, there will be plenty of places where kids to get their hands on Legos and build things for themselves.

"We have three or four key areas where we can expand and build rides as the park grows," Jones said.

Jill Swidler, the park's marketing manager, said the focus for the first 18 months or so will be drawing visitors who live within a two-hour radius, including the Orlando and Tampa areas. Then they'll make a bigger a push to divert families away Walt Disney World and the other Orlando attractions for a day trip. She said the Lego brand name will distinguish it from Cypress Gardens, which besides having grown outdated was hurt by its distance from the other attractions.

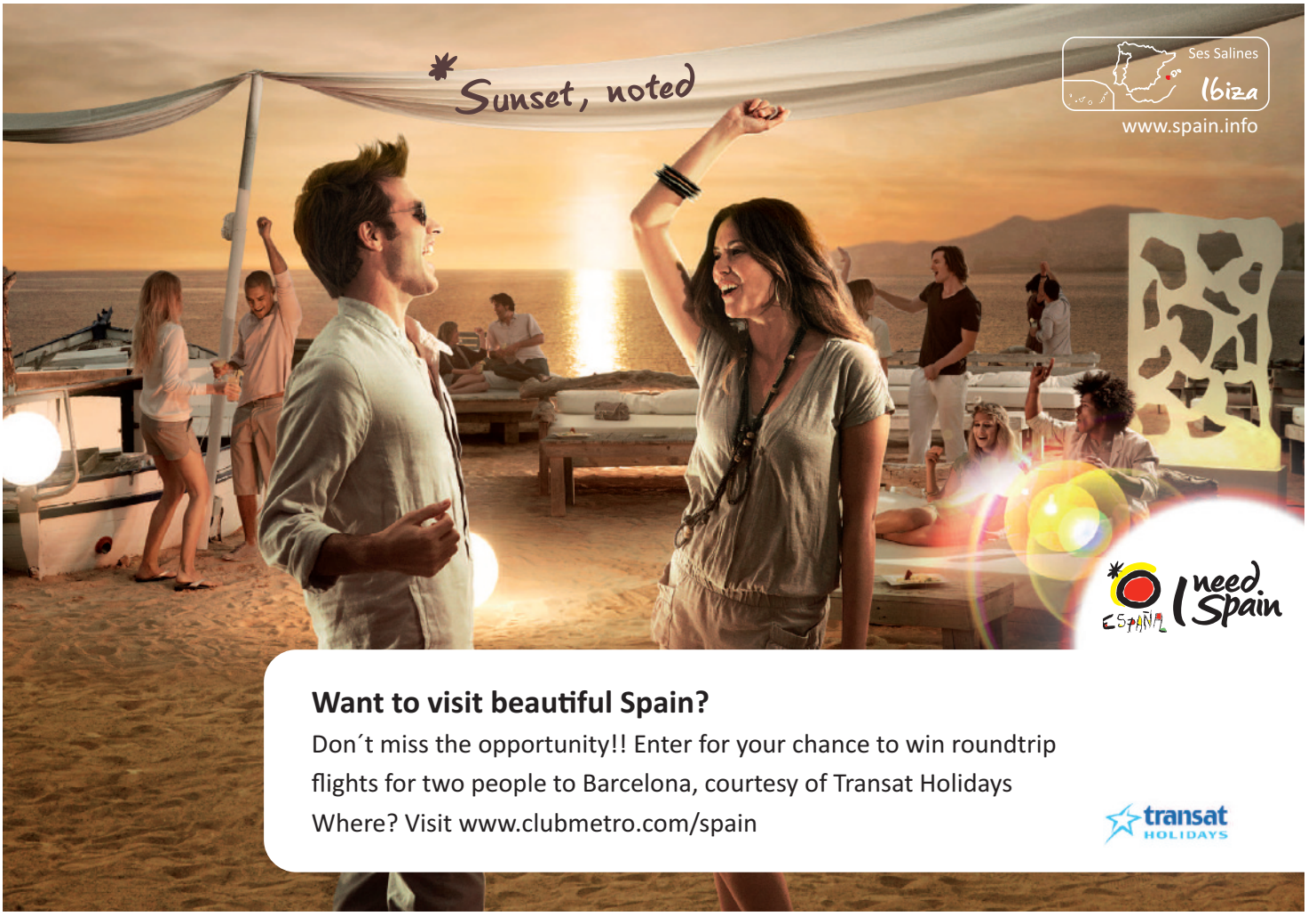
Inspired by the Lego bricks first named by a Danish toy maker in 1932, the first Legoland opened in Dillund, Denmark, in 1968. Parks in Windsor, England, outside London, and in Carlsbad, California, went up in the 1990s, and a Legoland opened in Gunzburg, Germany, in 2002.

A single-day ticket to Legoland Florida is being offered now for $65 US plus tax for adults and $55 US plus tax for children three to 12 and seniors. Kids two and under get in free.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

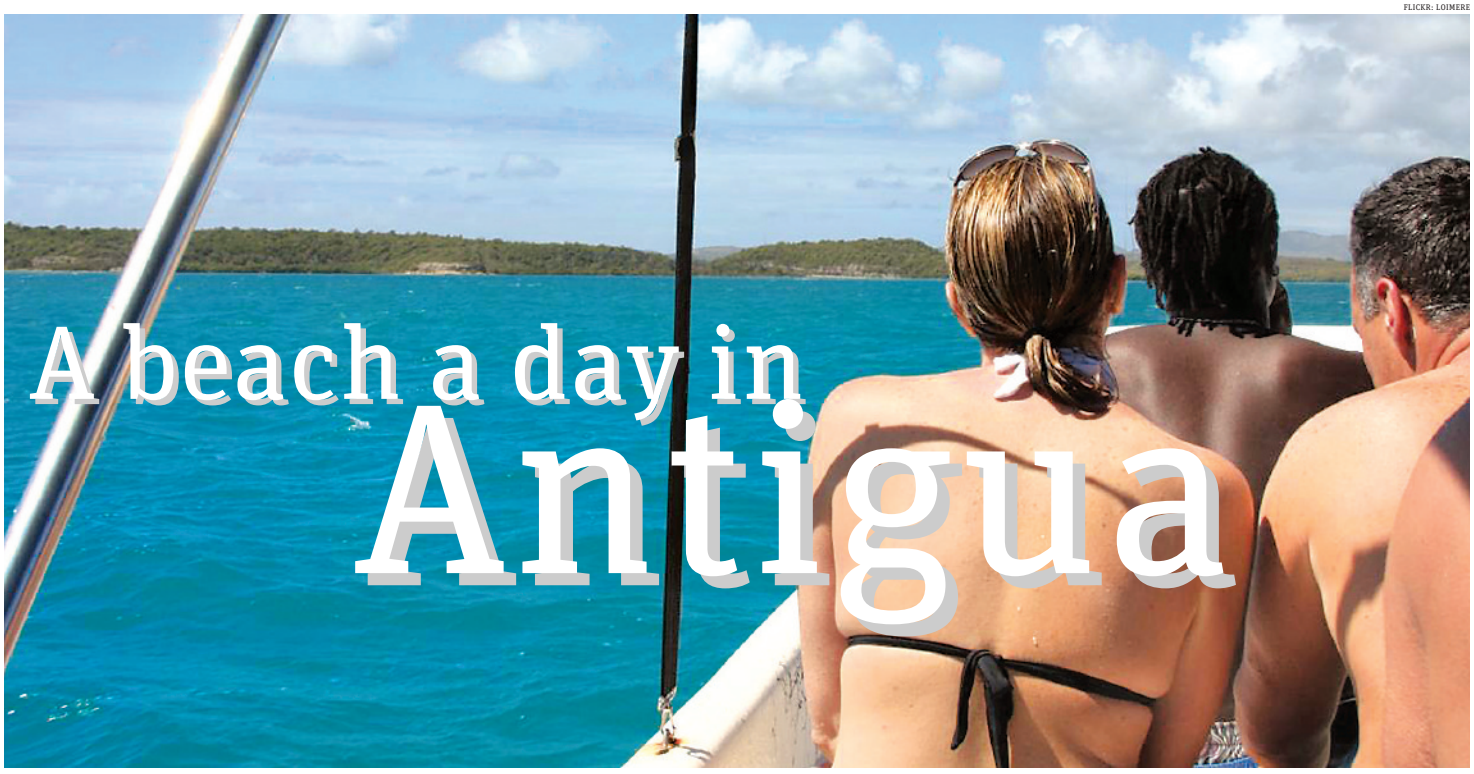
CHIP LITHERLAND/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/LEGOLAND FLORIDA, MERLIN ENTERTAINMENTS GROUP

▶ A view of Legoland Florida during a preview tour in Winter Haven, Fla.



The Caribbean has plenty of great spots to visit, but Antigua's quality, and quantity, of beaches puts it near the top of any list With 365 beaches, you won't lack for options, but don't miss the pink sand of Half Moon Bay Beach

FLICKR: LOIMERE



A beach a day in Antigua

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THE TRAVELLIN' CANADIAN

DARREN PARKMAN
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There are a lot of beautiful beaches in the Caribbean, but not many places can boast a beach for every day of the year.

The island of Antigua is said to have 365 beaches, one for each day of the calendar. You'd need a heck of a lot of 40 SPF sunscreen to spend time on all of them, but a select few are more than worth a leisurely visit.

You may believe you're hallucinating from one too many tropical drinks when you hit the pink sand. That's right the pink sand of secluded and stunning Half Moon Bay beach, located only about five minutes from Freetown village on the southeast coast. I was immediately struck by the mile of fine powder pink sand that curved around the edge of the bay. Very weird, but still very cool.

The snorkelling and wind surfing were pretty impressive here also. I was glad to see that familiar Caribbean white sand at Galley Bay beach on the northwest coast near Five Islands Village. I happened to show up here during a very special time, when baby sea turtles were hatching and making that long first journey to the sea.

I almost wanted to help out a few of those cute little leatherbacks trying to make their way to the water, by nudging them along, but sea turtles and nesting areas are heavily protected here, so I was content to watch nature unfold in all it's glory.

A few days later, I found myself once again wiling away the hours at yet another gorgeous venue, the aptly named Jolly Beach on the west coast. As I basked in the turquoise blue luke warm waters, watching a few tropical fish swim lazily by, I thought to myself, "that's three beaches down … only 362 more to go". Nice work if you can get it.

FLICKR: LOIMERE

Other cool things to do

- **Visit Stingray City.** Get up close and personal with tame stingrays, so gentle they are known as the puppy dogs of the sea! You can learn how to handle and feed these gentle giants, and swim alongside them.
- **Check out the Nightlife in St. John.** Limbo dancers and calypso singers galore can be found at various casinos, bars and restaurants. Also some great nightclubs and discos.

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Ushering in spring

After a long winter, it's time to look forward to warm weather & lighter eats

ROSE REISMAN
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

BOTH PHOTOS: ROSE REISMAN

▶ This tuna salad with roasted vegetables is filling enough to be an entrée.

This Fresh Tuna Salad Nicoise with Roasted Vegetables is my favourite salad – ever. It's a perfect springtime main course and best with good-quality raw tuna. You can, however, substitute canned tuna packed in water.

Preparation:

1. Preheat oven to 425°F. Line a baking sheet with foil and lightly coat it with cooking spray.
2. Place potatoes, tomatoes, onions and asparagus on baking sheet. Lightly coat vegetables with cooking spray and bake for 10 minutes. Turn tomatoes and asparagus after 5 minutes, and remove from oven after 10 minutes. Continue cooking red onion for another 5 minutes, then remove from oven. Continue cooking potatoes until tender, turning halfway.
3. Meanwhile, preheat a nonstick grill pan lightly coated with cooking spray over medium-high heat. Sear tuna on each side for about 1 to 2 minutes, or until the outside of fish is just cooked but inside is rare. Take tuna off heat immediately. To stop cooking process, place in fridge immediately.
4. Arrange spinach, cucumber and olives on a large serving platter. Top with roasted vegetables.
5. To prepare the dressing, whisk together olive oil, lemon juice, anchovies, garlic, mustard, salt and pepper. Pour dressing over salad and top with dill. Slice tuna thinly and arrange it on top of salad.

Ingredients:

Salad
- 6 fingerling potatoes, sliced in half lengthwise
- 12 grape tomatoes
- 3 large slices red onion, about 1/4 inch thick
- 8 asparagus spears, trimmed
- 12 oz raw tuna (or canned flaked tuna packed in water)
- 4 cups baby spinach
- 3/4 cup diced cucumber
- 10 kalamata olives

Dressing
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 4 anchovy fillets, finely chopped
- 1 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 1/2 tsp Dijon mustard
- pinch of salt and pepper

Garnish
- 3 tbsp chopped fresh dill

Frittata With Sautéed Mushrooms

To enhance the flavour of this dish, use wild mushrooms such as oyster, shiitake or portobello.

Button mushrooms will work, but sauté on a higher heat to ensure the excess liquid evaporates.

Preparation:

1. Lightly coat a nonstick skillet with cooking spray. Add oil and set over medium heat. Add onion and garlic and sauté for 3 minutes, or until the onion is soft. Add mushrooms and diced pepper and cook for 5 minutes. Set aside.
2. Wipe out skillet and respray. Combine egg substitute, egg whites and milk. Cook for 4 minutes over medium heat. Add onion and mushroom mix, spinach and cheese. Cover and cook until the cheese melts.
3. Slip the frittata onto a serving platter. Cut into wedges, garnish with parsley and serve immediately. ROSE REISMAN

Ingredients:

- 1 tsp vegetable oil
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 tsp chopped garlic
- 3/4 cup sliced mushrooms
- 1/4 cup red pepper
- 1/2 cup egg substitute (or 2 large eggs)
- 3 egg whites
- 1/3 cup low-fat milk
- 1 cup fresh baby spinach
- 1/2 cup shredded havarti
- 2 tbsp chopped parsley

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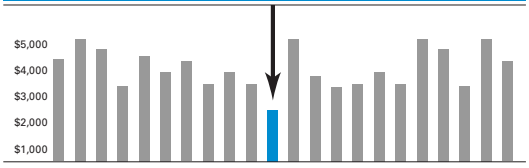

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Women in the Field symposium unveils that inequality remains an issue in newsrooms
Panelists agree that executive positions in the media are still dominated by men

Doing journalism justice

KYLA SERGEJEW
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

With the news of Lisa LaFlamme replacing Lloyd Robertson as CTV National News head anchor, you'd think women had finally won the battle for equality. But the recent symposium held at Ryerson University in Toronto on March 22, Women in the Field, uncovered otherwise.

Panelists focused on the ongoing struggle for equal treatment in the newsroom while addressing topics ranging from parenthood and success to international assignments and occupational stability.

"Not only have we not won the war, we can't shut up."
JUDITH TIMSON,
FREELANCE WRITER AND COLUMNIST

ISTOCK

▶ Women have made waves in the journalism field within the last century, but is the tide high enough?

Kathy English, public editor at the Toronto Star, said most women she's spoken to feel there is still a glass ceiling holding women back in the industry.

"These days any inequality you experience is subtle, [and with women] there is a sense of don't rock the boat," said English. "It's easy to say look how bad it used to be, but it's not good enough yet."

Although there is an increasing presence of women in newsrooms and journalism schools, panelists agreed executive positions are still very much held by older, white males.

"The reality is that men are still in charge in much of the world and women continue to defer to them," said Karen Levine, documentary editor at CBC.

CBC director Sadia Zaman knows all too well how discrimination, not only against sex but also race, can put constraints on opportunities.

"It's very discouraging as a woman of colour in this industry," Zaman said. "If you are a woman of colour, you will not see yourself in the executive positions here in Canada."

Timeline

Women in Journalism

1846

▶ American journalist Margaret Fuller becomes the first female foreign correspondent and travels to Europe.

1941

▶ Eleanor Roosevelt holds women-only news conferences that contribute to the rise of female reporters.

1976

▶ Barbara Walters becomes the first female to co-anchor network evening news.

1990

▶ The International Women's Media Foundation is founded with the goal of strengthening women's role in media worldwide as a means to further freedom of the press.

2007

▶ Katie Couric becomes the first solo female anchor of the evening news for a major network.

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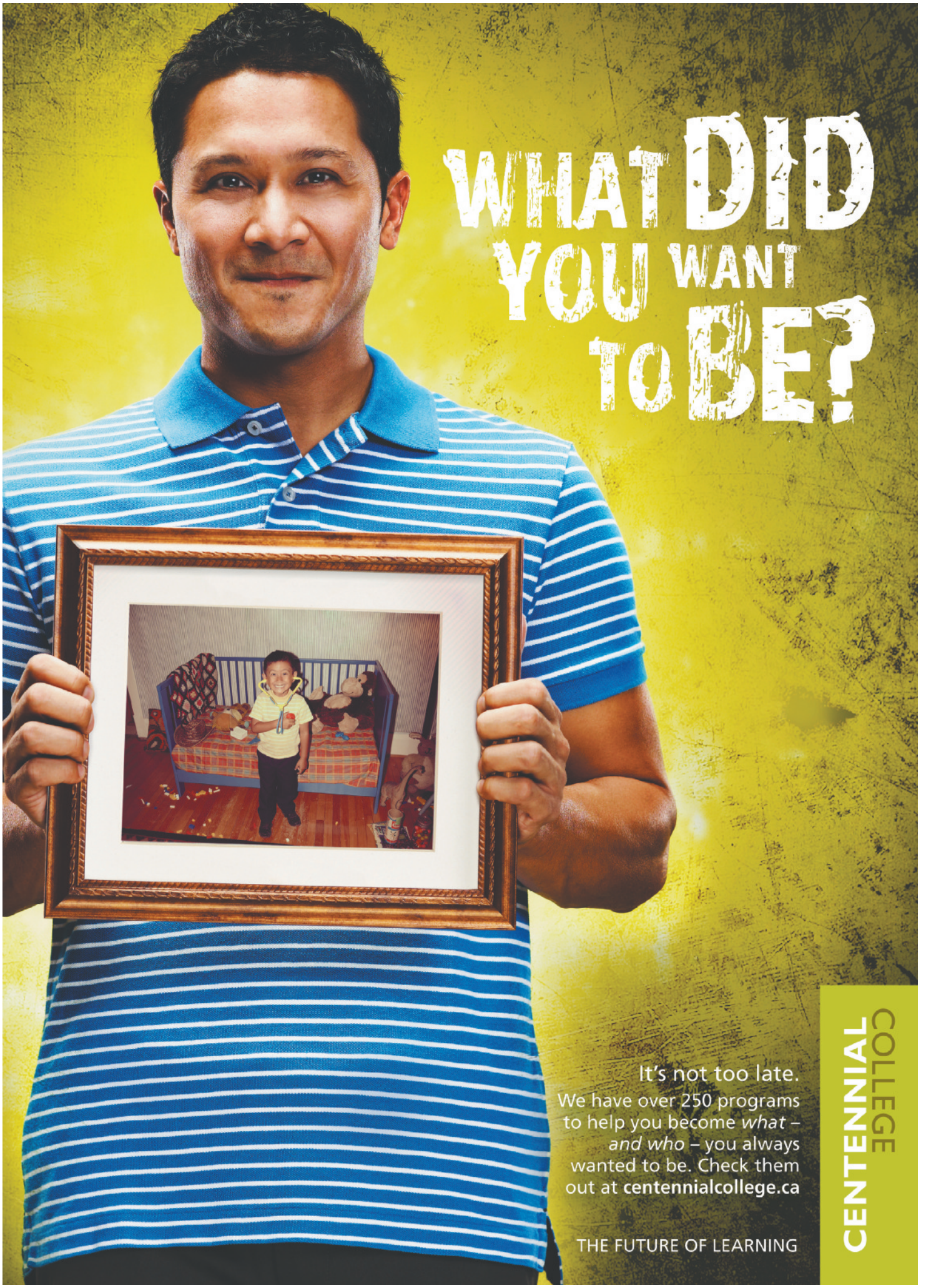
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DO NOT CALL IT 'HUMAN RIGHTS'

ISTOCK

▶ In human rights tribunals, the odds are generally stacked against the employer.

Employers often complain that human rights tribunals are stacked against them. One employer's recent experience, related here, demonstrates why.

After a night of drinking at a company-sponsored retreat in North Carolina, Anne-Marie Sutton slipped into a bathing suit and joined some colleagues in a hot tub.

Sutton, a contractor for an Ontario accounting firm, had travelled with the company to the retreat. Alcohol flowed freely, and when another guest starting flirting with her, Sutton reciprocated. Once in the hot tub, they started making out.

One of the witnesses who later testified said that Sutton appeared "into it" and looked "like she was having a good time."

However, after returning home from the retreat, Sutton suddenly claimed that she had been drugged and sexually assaulted in the hot tub by the guest that she had made out with and a partner from the firm. Sutton quickly resigned from her job and suggested that she had been raped.

Dissatisfied with the company's response to her concerns, she launched a human rights complaint, alleging that she had been secretly videotaped, drugged and sexually assaulted at the retreat.

After an eight-day hearing, the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal recently concluded that Sutton simply could not be believed and that her version of the events did not occur.

The problem is that, unlike the courts where the loser pays legal costs to the other side, human rights tribunals have no mandate to award legal costs.

This serves employees' interests but not those of their current or former employers.

If employees have no risk of losing at trial and paying legal costs, why not pull the trigger on an extensive complaint. Here, despite making serious claims that were ultimately unsupported, Sutton was not forced to pay her former employer even a dime.

What's worse is that while Sutton was provided with legal counsel at the government's expense by the Human Rights Legal Support Centre, a provincially funded agency that pursues claims on behalf of employees, her former employer was left to fend for itself.

In my experience, if complainants are actually forced to pay for a lawyer, fewer frivolous claims will be advanced, leaving more time and resources for those that actually do have merit.

Hit stress with your best shot

Young students are gaining discipline, courage and stamina with the help of a punching bag

About a half dozen kids wearing shorts and T-shirts gather around Tyson Cave at a Halifax boxing club. Some look sheepish, others confused.

The 29-year-old accomplished boxer isn't about to go easy on his young students, who've come after school to learn the basics of the contact sport.

While running laps, Cave caught one boy slowing to a walk. Now everyone has to do 20 pushups to make up for it.

"Boxing is a very dedicated sport and I tell all my kids if you're not dedicated 100 per cent, you're in the wrong sport," says Cave, a multi-time national amateur champion with a 14-1 record as a professional.

"I decided to dedicate myself 120 per cent so therefore I was successful."

The Halifax native, who's known as the Prince of Hali in boxing circles, works as a head coach at Palooka's Boxing Club. Five days a week, the facility offers free boxing and mixed martial arts classes for youth between the ages of 12 and 18.

He says the purpose of the after-school program is to give all youth – regardless of background – a place to go, make friends, learn responsibility and stay out of trouble and off the streets.

The club, owned by well-known Halifax entrepreneur and long-time boxing enthusiast Mickey MacDonald, funds the program itself.

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Shyraya Sullivan participates in a free boxing program to encourage neighbourhood kids to have fun and get fit while learning the basics of the sport.

While the club attracts boxers from all over the city, it's no coincidence that it's located on Gottingen Street, a gritty thoroughfare punctuated by small businesses, apartments, government offices, a methadone clinic and a public library. But despite its rough-and-tumble reputation, the street has begun to show signs of revitalization in recent years.

Gottingen Street is also home to Uniacke Square, a neighbourhood consisting of low-income housing that has seen its share of violent crime and drugs. It's also where Cave says he spent part of his youth getting into trouble and "trying to be a man while still being a kid from a rough area."

At 14, before Palooka's existed, Cave says he walked into another boxing club on a whim. He recalls the terrifying rush of jumping into the ring for the first time, beads of nervous sweat forming on his skin.

He also remembers how it felt to lose and the pact he made with himself to never face an opponent unprepared again.

Boxing gave him something positive to focus on.

"(I'm) living proof that if you do give a kid a chance, he can succeed and he can become something," he says. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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‘Cricket diplomacy’ brings India, Pakistan together

The decades-old rivalry between India and Pakistan moves back onto the cricket pitch today in a match that brings the Pakistani prime minister to India on a rare visit that may even nudge the nuclear-armed neighbours a step closer to peace.

Amid a surge of good will ahead of a blockbuster World Cup semifinal, officials on both sides of the border have predicted the so-called “gentleman’s game” could help renew diplomatic co-operation and revive peace efforts frozen after the 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks that India blames on Pakistan-based Islamist militants.

Love of cricket — bequeathed to both countries by South Asia’s British colonial rulers — is one of the few things that Pakistan and India can usually agree on, despite a long history of mutual animosity that has fuelled three wars since the region’s bloody partition of 1947.

Ordinary life will stop for several hours in both countries today as hundreds of millions of fans tune in to follow the India-Pakistan semifinal in the northern Indian city of Mohali.

Seizing the moment for a bit of sports diplomacy, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Pakistan counterpart Yousuf Raza Gilani said they would watch the match together at Mohali, in Singh’s home state of Punjab. They will then hold talks over dinner, officials said.

Few expect any breakthroughs beyond showing the world that the two leaders are willing to engage in dialogue.

“The entire attention of the people of the two countries will be on the match,” said Pakistan’s former foreign secretary, Shamsad Khan. “I don’t expect anyone will have much interest in the meeting ... it’s basically chit-chat.”

Still, Pakistan — delighted by the invitation — also said it would free an Indian man imprisoned 27 years for alleged espionage.

The warmer atmosphere marks a major change from years of gruff politics that kept the rivals in stalemate and worried governments abroad.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One down, 5 more to go

Mikhail Grabovski’s goal helps Toronto to big 4-3 victory over rival Buffalo ◆ Team would still likely need five more wins to make playoffs

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mikhail Grabovski celebrates his eventual game-winning goal last night against Buffalo.

The Toronto Maple Leafs weren’t willing to let their playoff hopes evaporate without a fight.

Mikhail Grabovski’s second-period goal held up as the winner and rookie Nazem Kadri added two assists in a standout performance last night as the Maple Leafs pulled out a tense 4-3 victory over the Buffalo Sabres.

It was a crucial game for a Toronto team facing long odds to make the playoffs. The Maple Leafs are still five points adrift of Buffalo for eighth in the Eastern Conference and will likely need to win all five of their remaining games to have any chance.

4	3
LEAFS	SABRES

A loss to the Sabres would have virtually ended their hopes.

Dion Phaneuf, Darryl Boyce and Clarke MacArthur had the other goals for Toronto (35-32-10).

MacArthur also added two assists.

Thomas Vanek, Jason Pominville and Rob Niedermayer replied for Buffalo (38-29-9).

One of the keys to Toronto’s playoff push has been a change of fortunes against Buffalo, which lost to the Leafs for the third straight time since the all-star break.

It was a tense final period at Air Canada Centre with the Leafs clinging to a one-goal lead.

James Reimer took one shot off the mask during a power play and managed to fall on the puck with plenty of traffic in front.

Phaneuf got Toronto off to the kind of start it needed, skating into the Sabres end and beating Ryan Miller with a hard shot at 1:34. The Sabres goaltender was left staring in disbelief at his catching glove.

The Leafs extended the lead to 2-0 at 10:46 after Kadri stripped the puck off Shaone Morrisonn in the corner and worked the puck out front to Boyce, who scored his fifth of the season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New concussion rules for MLB

14

Any player needing more than 14 days to recover will automatically be transferred to the 15-day disabled list. There is also a 60-day disabled list.

A seven-day disabled list for concussions wouldn’t have done Aaron Hill much good when the Toronto Blue Jays second baseman missed the final four months of 2008 with the injury.

That didn’t stop him from saying the move, and several other guidelines instituted by Major League Baseball yesterday, was another positive sign the sport is doing more and more to address concussions.

MLB and the players’ union announced a new set of protocols that take effect on opening day to deal with concussions, including the creation of the new seven-day disabled list that should give team doctors and the injured players more flexibility to address head injuries.

“I think it’s good they’re paying more attention to these things because they’re seeing the long-term effects concussions can have on players,” Hill said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 sports

Raptors preview

Bucks at Raptors, 7 p.m.
TV: TSN2
Radio: 590 AM

Milwaukee (29-44) has dropped two straight games, including an 87-86 decision Monday to Charlotte. Milwaukee was held without a field goal for the final 5:10 and scoreless for the last 3:52 of the contest.

Toronto (20-53) returns home following a five-game road trip in which it registered just one win. The Raptors are 14-22 at home but just 6-31 on the road. Toronto has recorded six of its 20 victories against the NBA’s top-eight teams this season — Chicago, Dallas, Boston, Oklahoma City (twice) and Orlando.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scan code for more sports

SO FAR, SO GOOD FOR GARDINER

Opinion

JOHN GRIGG
THE HOCKEY NEWS

"He's obviously fit in really well with us. He's a great kid," said 21-year-old rookie Toronto Marlie Joe Colborne of his new 20-year-old teammate Jake Gardiner.

Yes, somehow in hockey, being born in January allows you to refer to a teammate born in July of the same year as a "kid." In the span of nine days in February, Maple Leafs general manager Brian Burke upgraded his team's pipeline by acquiring Gardiner for Francois Beauchemin and Colborne for Tomas Kaberle.

Colborne was the 16th pick of the 2008 draft. At six-foot-five and a still-filling-out 190 pounds, he projects to be a power centre of the future for the Buds. Gardiner was the 17th selection that same year. He's a quiet kid who looks closer to 16 than 20, but is a swift-skating blue-liner with offensive chops.

Just four games into his pro career, Gardiner is still getting his feet wet.

"I think he's a pretty confident kid," said Marlies head coach Dallas Eakins. "He's come in, he's pretty quiet, I think he's still feeling out his surroundings."

The Minnesota native played in high school and spent this season and last in the NCAA at Wisconsin. He turned pro when the Badgers' campaign ended.

"So far, so good," Eakins said of Gardiner's play. "It's really early to have a real firm opinion. But obviously he can skate, he's got great poise with the puck — he made some NHL passes today."

Gardiner is also surprisingly physical for a young defenceman playing against men 10 years his senior. He doesn't shy away from contact and indeed initiates it often.

"A lot of times what happens is a guy skates well and moves the puck well and everybody thinks he's soft," Eakins said. "This kid's not afraid; he's going to close on guys, he's hard on guys' sticks, he's going to take the body."

"The guys are bigger," Gardiner added, "but you've just got to handle them differently — get better body position on guys, that part of the game hasn't changed much."

And soft spoken or not, Gardiner doesn't lack confidence.

"The change has been fun, definitely," he said. "The first couple of games I was a little nervous, I think everyone is coming into the league. But I don't think it's too big a step for me."

Don't expect to see Gardiner in a Maple Leafs uniform next season. Eakins looked at me cockeyed when I suggested it, basically saying nothing's impossible with the pace at which young players develop these days, but that he would be in a heated battle.

But with his speed and poise, Gardiner has a good chance to make it. He's taken some knocks recently for slow development, but getting him and a first-round pick for the overpaid, underperforming Beauchemin was a coup of sorts for Burke.

"That's a pretty good pickup in that trade," Eakins said.

Jays. Victory

▶ Baltimore's Matt Wieters takes out Aaron Hill to break up a double play.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shaky outing for Cecil

It was another tough outing for Brett Cecil. The Toronto starter gave up four earned runs on nine hits in just four innings of work yesterday, but the Blue Jays still managed to beat the Baltimore Orioles 7-4 in spring training action.

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	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
dx-Philadelphia	75	45	20	4	6	238	200	100	21-11-2-4	24-9-2-2	5-1-1-3	L1
dx-Washington	76	44	22	5	5	205	182	98	22-8-2-5	22-14-3-0	8-2-0-0	W1
dx-Boston	75	42	23	5	5	226	178	94	18-13-3-2	24-10-2-3	4-4-2-0	W1
x-Pittsburgh	76	45	23	5	3	218	183	98	24-13-2-0	21-10-3-3	8-2-0-0	W4
Tampa Bay	75	40	24	5	6	223	228	91	22-11-1-4	18-13-4-2	3-3-2-2	W1
NY Rangers	76	41	30	2	3	218	181	87	18-16-1-3	23-14-1-0	8-1-0-1	W1
Montreal	76	40	29	4	3	200	196	87	22-11-3-3	18-18-1-0	4-6-0-0	L3
Buffalo	75	38	28	8	1	222	210	85	18-16-3-1	20-12-5-0	6-3-1-0	W3
Carolina	75	35	30	5	5	211	224	80	20-13-2-2	15-17-3-3	4-5-1-0	L1
Toronto	76	34	32	5	5	201	232	78	17-14-3-4	17-18-2-1	5-4-1-0	L1
Atlanta	75	32	31	5	7	210	246	76	17-15-2-5	15-16-3-2	6-3-1-0	W1
New Jersey	75	34	36	3	2	155	189	73	18-15-2-1	16-21-0-2	4-5-0-1	L3
NY Islanders	76	29	35	7	5	210	241	70	16-17-1-4	13-18-6-1	4-3-2-1	L2
Florida	76	29	36	5	6	185	209	69	15-15-4-4	14-21-2-1	3-5-0-2	L5
Ottawa	76	29	37	5	5	175	233	68	14-19-2-3	15-18-3-2	6-3-0-1	L1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
y-Vancouver	76	50	17	4	5	247	175	109	25-8-1-4	25-9-3-1	9-1-0-0	W3
d-Detroit	76	44	22	6	4	244	216	98	20-12-4-2	24-10-2-2	5-3-2-0	L1
d-San Jose	76	44	23	4	5	224	199	97	21-11-2-3	23-12-2-2	6-1-0-3	W1
Phoenix	77	41	25	7	4	219	212	93	19-13-4-2	22-12-3-2	7-2-1-0	L1
Los Angeles	75	43	26	4	2	207	181	92	23-12-3-0	20-14-1-2	7-1-2-0	W3
Nashville	76	41	25	6	4	202	179	92	22-8-4-3	19-17-2-1	8-1-1-0	W6
Anaheim	76	43	28	3	2	219	221	91	24-12-1-1	19-16-2-1	8-2-0-0	W2
Chicago	75	41	26	3	5	242	206	90	23-15-0-0	18-11-4-4	5-3-1-1	W1
Calgary	77	38	28	4	7	235	226	87	22-12-1-3	16-16-3-4	4-4-1-1	W1
Dallas	74	38	26	4	6	208	210	86	20-11-3-5	18-15-1-1	4-3-2-1	L3
Minnesota	75	35	32	3	5	188	213	78	17-16-2-3	18-16-1-2	1-7-2-0	L8
St. Louis	75	34	32	4	5	212	219	77	21-12-1-3	13-20-3-2	6-4-0-0	W2
Columbus	75	33	31	4	7	200	230	77	16-17-1-3	17-14-3-4	2-5-1-2	L4
Colorado	75	28	39	7	1	211	267	64	15-18-4-0	13-21-3-1	2-8-0-0	L3
Edmonton	75	23	41	2	9	180	249	57	12-20-1-5	11-21-2-3	1-6-1-2	L9

x — clinched playoff berth; y — clinched division title; d — division leaders; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL or SOL columns.

Last night's results
Chicago at Boston
Buffalo at Toronto
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh
Carolina at Washington
Florida at Columbus
Atlanta at Montreal
Ottawa at Tampa Bay
Minnesota at St. Louis
Vancouver at Nashville
Los Angeles at Edmonton
Dallas at Phoenix

Monday's results
Chicago 3 Detroit 2 (OT)
Anaheim 5 Colorado 4

Tonight's games
All times Eastern
N.Y. Rangers at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Carolina, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Anaheim at Calgary, 9:30 p.m.

Tomorrow's games
Toronto at Boston, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Columbus at Washington, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Ottawa at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Nashville at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Los Angeles at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Dallas at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

MONDAY

BLACKHAWKS 3, WINGS 2 (OT)

First Period
1. Chicago, Toews 31 (Brouwer, Campoli) 2:54
2. Detroit, Lidstrom 15 (V.Filppula, Rafalski) 7:36
3. Chicago, Seabrook 6 (Kane, Hossa) 13:18 (pp)

Penalties — Bertuzzi Det (elbowing major, game misconduct) 5:17, Hossa Chi (slashing) 6:08, Frolik Chi (hooking) 9:55, Helm Det (tripping) 13:08, Kopecky Chi (delay of game) 14:17, R.Johnson Chi (tripping) 16:44.

Second Period — No Scoring.

Penalties — None.

Third Period
4. Detroit, Zetterberg 23 (Hudler, Rafalski) 2:25 (pp)

Penalties — Hjalmarsson Chi (high-sticking) 1:44, Ericsson Det (holding) 9:26, Kruger Chi (holding stick), Kronwall Det (slashing) 12:41, Zetterberg Det (hooking) 19:56.

Overtime
5. Chicago, Hossa 23 (Kane, Keith) 0:51 (pp)

Penalties — None.

Shots

Chicago	14	16	10	1	—41
Detroit	14	9	12	0	—35

Goal — Chicago: Crawford (W,30-15-5); Detroit: MacDonald (L,5-4-3). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Chicago: 2-5; Detroit: 1-4. **Referees** — Brad Watson, Kyle Rehman. **Linesmen** — Jonny Murray, Shane Heyer. **Att.** — 20,066 (20,066) at Detroit.

DUCKS 5, AVALANCHE 4

First Period
1. Colorado, O'Reilly 11 (Hejduk, Stoa) 3:34 (pp)
2. Colorado, Duchene 27 (Hejduk, Hunwick) 5:17

Penalties — Winchester Ana (elbowing) 2:03, Koci Col, Parros Ana (fighting) 4:09, Duchene Col (hooking) 10:01, Koci Col, McLeod Col, Ruutu Ana, Parros Ana (roughing) 16:00.

Second Period
3. Anaheim, Selanne 26, penalty shot, 0:47
4. Anaheim, Blake 15 (Selanne, Koivu) 4:06
5. Anaheim, Selanne 27 (Fowler, Koivu) 9:01
6. Colorado, Jones 25 (Winnik, O'Byrne) 15:30

Penalty — Stastny Col (hooking) 5:05.

Third Period
7. Anaheim, Fowler 9 (Selanne, Visnovsky) 2:49 (pp)
8. Anaheim, Selanne 28 (Getzlaf, Visnovsky) 15:11 (pp)
9. Colorado, Stastny 21 (Hejduk, Duchene) 19:18

Penalties — Gaunce Col (tripping) 1:35, Lydman Ana (hooking) 11:51, Colorado bench (too many men; served by Hejduk) 15:00.

Shots

Colorado	13	10	12	—35
Anaheim	17	18	7	—42

Goal — Colorado: B.Elliott (L,15-25-9); Anaheim: Emery (W,5-0-0). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Colorado: 1-2; Anaheim: 2-4. **Referees** — Marc Joannette, Brian Pochmara. **Linesmen** — Darren Gibbs, Mark Shewchyk. **Att.** — 14,336 (17,174) at Anaheim.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
D.Sedin, Vcr	40	56	96
H.Sedin, Vcr	19	70	89
St. Louis, TB	26	61	87
Stamkos, TB	43	43	86
Perry, Ana	44	41	85
Ovechkin, Wash	29	48	77
Zetterberg, Det	23	53	76
Iginla, Cal	36	39	75
Toews, Chi	31	44	75
Selanne, Ana	28	47	75
Kopitar, LA	25	48	73
C.Giroux, Pha	24	46	70
B.Richards, Dal	25	44	69
Getzlaf, Ana	18	51	69
Kesler, Vcr	36	32	68
Sharp, Chi	34	34	68
E.Staal, Car	31	37	68
P.Kane, Chi	25	42	67
Crosby, Pgh	32	34	66
Nash, Clb	32	34	66
Ribeiro, Dal	16	50	66
Ryan, Ana	32	33	65
Eriksson, Dal	24	41	65
J.Carter, Pha	34	30	64
Marleau, SJ	33	31	64
Vanek, Buf	26	38	64
J.Thornton, SJ	19	46	64
Visnovsky, Ana	15	48	63
M.Richards, Pha	21	41	62
Duchene, Col	27	34	61
Tavares, NYI	27	34	61
Pavelski, SJ	18	43	61
Briere, Pha	32	28	60
Clowe, SJ	24	36	60
Havlat, Minn	21	39	60
Lidstrom, Det	15	45	60
Krecji, Bos	12	48	60
Heatley, SJ	24	35	59
Tanguay, Cal	19	40	59
Backstrom, Wash	18	41	59
Lucic, Bos	30	28	58
Yandle, Phx	11	47	58
Kessel, Tor	29	28	57
Datsyuk, Det	22	35	57
J.Williams, LA	22	35	57
M.Koivu, Minn	17	40	57
Grabovski, Tor	28	28	56
Backes, StL	27	29	56
P.Stastny, Col	21	35	56
MacArthur, Tor	20	36	56
Doan, Phx	18	38	56
Ladd, Atl	27	28	55
Kulemin, Tor	28	26	54
Skinner, Car	26	28	54
Umberger, Clb	24	30	54
Ra.Whitney, Phx	15	39	54
Couture, SJ	30	23	53
P.Bergeron, Bos	22	31	53
Plekanec, Mtl	21	32	53
Elias, NJ	16	37	53
Kovalchuk, NJ	27	25	52
D.Brown, LA	25	27	52
Hossa, Chi	23	29	52
Hejduk, Col	20	32	52
Byfuglien, Atl	19	33	52
O.Jokinen, Cal	16	36	52
Franzen, Det	27	24	51
Dubinsky, NYR	22	29	51
Boyes, StL-Buf	17	34	51
Enstrom, Atl	10	41	51
T.Ruutu, Car	18	32	50
Samuelsson, Vcr	18	32	50
Morrow, Dal	28	21	49
Bourque, Cal	26	23	49
Semin, Wash	26	23	49
Horton, Bos	23	26	49
Benn, Dal	21	28	49
Weiss, Fla	21	28	49
Parenteau, NYI	18	31	49
Leino, Pha	17	32	49
Grabner, NYI	31	17	48
Moulson, NYI	30	18	48
Cole, Car	23	25	48
Steen, StL	18	30	48
J.Jokinen, Car	17	31	48
Purcell, TB	17	31	48
Ehrhoff, Vcr	12	36	48
Letang, Pgh	8	40	48
Callahan, NYR	23	24	47
Ennis, Buf	19	28	47
Recchi, Bos	13	34	47
Wisniewski, NYI-Mtl	10	37	47
Lecavalier, TB	20	26	46
Berglund, StL	19	27	46
Vrbata, Phx	18	28	46
Weber, Nash	16	30	46
Erat, Nash	15	31	46
Voracek, Clb	14	32	46

Last night's games not included

MLB

SPRING TRAINING

Yesterday's results
Toronto 7, Baltimore 4
Cincinnati 8, Cleveland 3
Florida 4, St. Louis 2
Kansas City 3, Chicago White Sox 2
Milwaukee 8, San Diego 7
Arizona 15 Chicago Cubs 8
Seattle 7 Colorado 2
N.Y. Mets 8, Washington 2
N.Y. Yankees 2, Detroit 1
Boston 1, Tampa Bay 1, tie
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia
Minnesota at Atlanta
L.A. Dodgers at L.A. Angels
San Francisco at Oakland

Today's games
All times Eastern
Minnesota at Atlanta, 12:05 p.m.
Florida vs. NYM at Port St. Lucie, Fla., 12:10 pm
Oakland at San Francisco, 3:45 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 4:05 p.m.
Toronto at Tampa Bay, 4:10 p.m.
Boston at Houston, 8:05 p.m.
Seattle at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

TENNIS

ATP-WTA SONY ERICSSON OPEN

At Key Biscayne, Fla.

Men's Singles — Third Round
Alexander Dolgopolov (21), Ukraine, def. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (15), France, 6-7 (2), 6-4, 7-5.

Men's Singles — Fourth Round
David Ferrer (6), Spain, def. Marcel Granollers, Spain, 6-1, 6-2.
Mardy Fish (14), United States, def. Juan Martin del Potro, Argentina, 7-5, 7-6 (5).
Kevin Anderson, South Africa, def. John Isner (30), United States, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Men's Doubles — Second Round
Mahesh Bhupathi and Leander Paes (3), India, def. Marc Lopez and David Marrero, Spain, 7-6 (5), 6-4.
Michael Llodra, France, and Nenad Zimonjic (6), Serbia, def. Xavier Malisse, Belg., and Jamie Murray, Brit., 6-7 (4), 6-3, 10-5 tiebreak.

Women's Singles — Fourth Round
Kim Clijsters (2), Belgium, def. Ana Ivanovic (19), Serbia, 7-6 (4), 3-6, 7-6 (5).

Women's Singles — Quarterfinals
Andrea Petkovic (21), Germany, def. Jelena Jankovic (6), Serbia, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Women's Doubles — Quarterfinals
Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, and Agnieszka Radwanska, Poland, def. Nuria Llagostera Vives and Arantxa Parra Santonja, Spain, 6-7 (4), 6-1, 10-1 tiebreak.

CRICKET

WORLD CUP

SEMIFINALS

Yesterday's result
At Colombo, Sri Lanka
Sri Lanka (220 for five) def. New Zealand (217, all out) by five wickets.

Today's match
At Mohali, India
Pakistan vs. India

BASKETBALL

NCAA TOURNAMENT

At Houston
NATIONAL SEMIFINALS
Saturday's games
Kentucky (29-8) vs. Connecticut (30-9)
Butler (27-9) vs. Virginia Commonwealth (28-11)
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
Monday, April 4
Semifinal winners

SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	2	0	0	6	2	0
Chicago	1	0	1	4	4	3
New England	1	0	1	4	3	2
New York	1	0	1	4	1	0
D.C.	1	1	0	3	4	3
Toronto FC	1	1	0	3	4	4
Sporting Kansas City	1	1	0	3	5	5
Houston	0	1	1	1	1	2
Columbus	0	1	1	1	1	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Real Salt Lake	2	0	0	6	5	1
Colorado	2	0	0	6	4	1
Los Angeles	1	1	1	4	3	5
Vancouver	1	1	0	3	4	3
San Jose	1	1	0	3	2	1
Seattle	0	2	1	1	1	3
FC Dallas	0	1	1	1	1	3
Chivas USA	0	2	0	0	2	4
Portland	0	2	0	0	1	5

NOTE: Three points for victory, one pt. for tie.

Friday's games
All times Eastern
FC Dallas at Columbus, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday's games
Chivas USA at Toronto FC, 1 p.m.
Sporting Kansas City at Vancouver, 7 p.m.
Houston at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Portland at New England, 7:30 p.m.
Seattle FC at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's game
D.C. United at Colorado, 7 p.m.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

QUALIFYING

(Home nations listed first)
Group A
Belgium 4, Azerbaijan 1
Turkey 2, Austria 0
Group C
Estonia 1, Serbia 1
Northern Ireland 0, Slovenia 0
Group D
Romania 3, Luxembourg 1
Group E
Netherlands 5, Hungary 3
Sweden 2, Moldova 1
Group F
Israel 1, Georgia 0
Group I
Czech Republic 2, Liechtenstein 0
Lithuania 1, Spain 3

EXHIBITION

Belarus 0, **Canada 1**
China 3, Honduras 0
Costa Rica vs. Argentina, (n)
Cyprus 0, Bulgaria 1
Cuba vs. Panama, (n)
El Salvador vs. Jamaica, (n)
England 1, Ghana 1
Equatorial Guinea 1, Gambia 0
France 0, Croatia 0
Germany 1, Australia 2
Greece 0, Poland 0
Ireland 2, Uruguay 3
Nigeria 3, Kenya 0
Oman 2, Tunisia 1
Portugal 2, Finland 0
Qatar 1, Russia 1
Slovakia 1, Denmark 2
Ukraine 0, Italy 2
United States vs. Paraguay, (n)
Mexico vs. Venezuela, (n)
Jordan 1, North Korea 1
Iraq 0, Kuwait 1
Colombia 0, Chile 2
Peru 0, Ecuador 0

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Chicago	53	20	.726	—
y-Boston	51	22	.699	2
x-Miami	51	22	.699	2
x-Orlando	47	27	.635	6½
x-Atlanta	42	32	.568	11½
Philadelphia	38	36	.514	15½
New York	36	38	.486	17½
Indiana	33	42	.440	21
Charlotte	31	42	.425	22
Milwaukee	29	44	.397	24
Detroit	26	47	.356	27
New Jersey	23	50	.315	30
Toronto	20	53	.274	33
Washington	18	55	.247	35
Cleveland	14	58	.194	38½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-San Antonio	57	17	.770	—
y-L.A. Lakers	53	20	.726	3½
x-Dallas	52	21	.712	4½
x-Oklahoma City	48	24	.667	8
Denver	44	29	.603	12½
Portland	43	31	.581	14
New Orleans	42	32	.568	15
Memphis	41	33	.554	16
Houston	39	35	.527	18
Phoenix	36	36	.500	20
Utah	36	39	.480	21½
Golden State	32	42	.432	25
L.A. Clippers	29	45	.392	28
Sacramento	20	52	.278	36
Minnesota	17	57	.230	40

d – division leader; x — clinched playoff berth; y — clinched division.

Last night's results
Houston 112, New Jersey 87
Miami at Cleveland
Golden State at Oklahoma City
Phoenix at Sacramento

Monday's results
Charlotte 87, Milwaukee 86
Indiana 107, Boston 100
New York 113, Orlando 106, OT
Philadelphia 97, Chicago 85
Portland 100, San Antonio 92
Washington 100, Utah 95 (OT)

Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Orlando at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Houston at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Miami at Washington, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Golden State at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Portland at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at Denver, 9 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
Dallas at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

LACROSSE

NLL

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
x-Toronto	12	9	3	.750	141	114	—
x-Buffalo	11	8	3	.727	122	102	½
Rochester	11	6	5	.545	106	117	2½
Boston	13	6	7	.462	133	120	3½
Philadelphia	12	4	8	.333	109	138	5

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
x-Calgary	12	9	3	.750	153	132	—
x-Washington	12	6	6	.500	155	143	3
Minnesota	11	5	6	.455	124	124	3½
Edmonton	12	3	9	.250	131	160	6
Colorado	10	2	8	.200	89	113	6

x — clinched playoff berth.

WEEK 13
All times Eastern
Friday's games
Washington at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Colorado at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Calgary, 9:30 p.m.

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Personals

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MISCELLANEOUS

Miscellaneous

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5 drive

Longer, wider, better

There's little or no resemblance to the somewhat bland and underpowered 2008-11 Focus.

The new version is longer, wider and the front and rear wheels are set farther apart. Although the sedan's trunk has shrunk a bit, the hatchback provides cavernous stowage, especially with the rear seat folded forward.

Sedan is just as good

Parked alongside its Fiesta relation, the Focus looks positively aggressive with its wide-open-mouth air intake and more planted stance.

For those who just can't get with the sleek-looking hatchback, the sedan version offers a more conservative silhouette. It's also the only style available if you order the price-leader Focus S, which begins at $16,450 (including destination charges).

Engine: what's not to like

The standard 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine should be to everyone's liking. Output is pegged at 160 horsepower and 146 pound-feet of torque.

That's 20 more horses and 10 more pound-feet than the outgoing 2.0-litre engine had. In the next 12 months, Ford expects to add a high-output turbocharged powerplant option, as well as an all-electric-powered model.

▶ The Focus is offered in hatchback and sedan (pictured) body styles that are radical departures from the previous models.

Ford focusing on new 'game'

MALCOLM GUNN
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WHEELBASE MEDIA

The days of North Americans being one step behind the rest of the world seem to be coming to an end.

It was assumed that we simply weren't interested in stylish, firm-riding hatchbacks that Europeans were driving, so they were seldom offered here. After all, we liked soft, pudgy cars with spoilers and plastic body cladding, right? We never did, really, but that's what we got.

The upshot was that our Ford Focus was not the same as the European Ford Focus: not even close.

But the cost-saving global-design movement is changing the way the game is played and many excellent European models are now showing up.

The 2012 Ford Focus and its smaller Fiesta relation are closely similar to models available throughout the world. The only major difference is that a four-door sedan body style has been added to both lineups for our market. As well, the Fiesta originates from Ford's Mexico plant, while the Focus rolls off the assembly line in Wayne, Mich.

The much-improved Focus shouldn't be viewed as just another econo-compact, but as Ford's mainstream model that can be outfitted according to taste and/or budget. It should also be a treat for anyone who appreciates an efficiently packaged car with European flavour.

▶ The Focus shines with an intricate and perhaps even glamorous centre stack and good attention to detail.

▶ There's no trouble fitting three people back there. To make up for not having a hatch, the sedan is about 18 centimetres longer.

10

In terms of trim levels, the top-run Titanium's full-load content includes touch-screen audio and climate controls, push button start, 10-speaker Sony sound system and a sport-tuned suspension with 17-inch wheels.

Ford Focus

What you should know about the 2012 Ford Focus:

- **Types:** Four-door sedan/four-door hatchback.
- **Engine (hp):** (hp): 2.0-litre DOHC I4 (160).
- **Transmission:** Five-speed manual; six-speed automated manual (opt.).
- **Points:** Focus represents significant design and content improvement over previous model.

By comparison

Chevrolet Cruze
Base price: $17,000
All-new Cobalt replacement is big on style, content and safety features.

Kia Forte
Base price: $17,450
Well-equipped sedan is priced right. New hatch model for 2011.

Mazda3
Base price: $17,700
Sporty sedan and hatch is fun to drive. New thrifty engines coming for 2012.

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‡ Based on Transport Canada approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption ratings for the 2011 Fiesta 1.6L Duratec I-4 Automatic with SFE Package (668 city km). Actual fuel consumption may vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits. ‡‡ Estimated fuel consumption ratings for the 2011 Fiesta SE 5 Door/ Fiesta SE with Sport Appearance Package and SYNC® and Sound Package for $15,867/$16,867 (after $500 Custom Event incentive deducted), a monthly payment of $248/$263 for 72 months at 3.99% APR with a down payment of $2,060 or equivalent trade-in. Down payment may be required based on approved credit. Cost of borrowing is $4,049/$4,129 or APR of 3.99% and total to be repaid is $19,916/$20,996. All offers include freight, air tax, PPSA, Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee and $500 Ford Custom Car Event incentive but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. Taxes are payable on the full amount of the purchase price. *Qualified retail customers, on approved credit from Ford Credit (not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment), may purchase finance a new 2011 Ford Fiesta SE 5 Door/ Fiesta SE with Sport Appearance Package and SYNC® and Sound Package for $15,867/$16,867 (after $500 Custom Event incentive deducted). Security deposit is $0. Freight, air tax, PPSA, Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee and $500 Ford Custom Car Event incentive have been deducted. Offers include freight, air tax and Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. *Qualified retail customers, on approved credit from Ford Credit (not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment), may purchase finance a new 2011 Ford Fiesta SE 5 Door/ Fiesta SE with Sport Appearance Package and SYNC® and Sound for $13,979/$17,879/$18,879 after Manufacturer Rebate of $0/$0 and $500/$500 Custom Event incentive deducted. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebate has been deducted. Offers include freight, air tax and Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. *Qualified retail customers, on approved credit from Ford Credit (not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment), may purchase finance a new 2011 Ford Fiesta SE 5 Door/ Fiesta SE with Sport Appearance Package and SYNC® and Sound Package for $15,867/$16,867 (after $500 Custom Event incentive deducted). Security deposit is $0. Freight, air tax, PPSA, Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee and $500 Ford Custom Car Event incentive have been deducted. Offers include freight, air tax and Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. *Qualified retail customers, on approved credit from Ford Credit (not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment), may purchase finance a new 2011 Ford Fiesta SE 5 Door/ Fiesta SE with Sport Appearance Package and SYNC® and Sound for $13,979/$17,879/$18,879 after Manufacturer Rebate of $0/$0 and $500/$500 Custom Event incentive deducted. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebate has

HIPPIE ICON READY TO ROLL AGAIN

Auto Pilot

MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE@ METRONEWS.CA

Far out! Groovy! Right on! Let it all hang out even! Because VW appears finally ready to re-introduce its iconic Microbus, the official vehicle of hippie-ness.

VW introduced a Microbus concept, simply called 'Microbus' for the 2001 Detroit auto show. Everyone seemed to like it, but VW obviously didn't green light it for production, unless I've had too much to dream this last decade, and somehow missed it.

But at last month's Geneva auto show, VW introduced another Microbus concept, this time called 'Bulli' and the chances are better than average that we will see a production-based version of this design in a few years.

When the original vehicle debuted in 1950 it was internally known as T1 — for Transporter 1. But Germans always called it 'Bulli' and North Americans always called it 'Microbus'. I think at this point it responds to either name, but I'm sticking with Microbus.

Unlike the 2001 concept, this new concept is compact — shorter even than its 1950 predecessor. Judging by its current dimensions, it appears production versions would be based on a new compact platform, which will see the light of day next year on the third-generation Audi A3.

But tidy as it is, it still seats six, via two bench seats. The seats all fold down to create a "sleeping" area — so the Microbus' camping traditions will continue.

Another novel interior feature is a removable i-Pad in the centre console, which serves as a multifunctional touch screen and lava lamp stand-in.

With A3 architecture, a production version could use any number of the company's powertrains. The concept's powertrain, however, is 100 per cent electric. A front-mounted 85kW electric motor and 40kWh lithium-ion battery drives the front wheels, and is said to give Bulli a range of about 300 km.

Acceleration and top speed should be leisurely, which is entirely in keeping with the Microbus legacy. The 1950 model had a 40-hp rear-mounted engine and the aerodynamics of a Home Depot garden shed.

But it had personality and versatility galore and all sorts of people — hippie and otherwise — loved them.

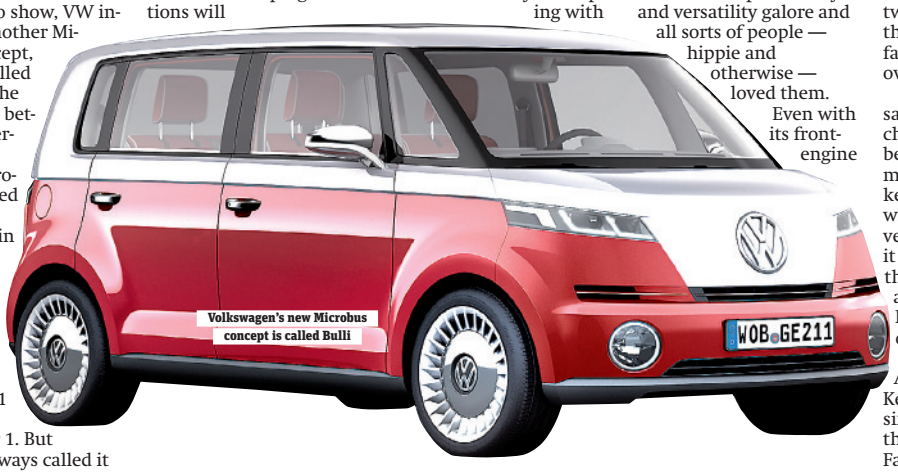
Even with its front-engine layout, the Microbus concept manages to evoke the vibe of the original, particularly when looking at the vehicle head on. Like the original, the concept uses two-tone paint to create the van's signature "V" face, complete with an oversized "VW" emblem.

A VW board member said there is a "big chance" the vehicle will be built, and that the U.S. market is keen on it. To keep costs competitive, when VW sells smallish vehicles in North America it tends to build them there as well. So building a North American Microbus might entail quite a bit of investment.

But never say never. As that eloquent hippie, Ken Kesey, once said: "The sixties are not over; they're not over until the Fat Lady gets high."

HANDOUT

▶ On the interior of the Microbus, note the removable i-Pad in the centre console.



Volkswagen's new Microbus concept is called Bulli

Crash safety is key for hybrids

DRIVING FORCE

JIL McINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Once a rare sight, hybrids are now pretty much considered "everyday" vehicles, and they'll soon be joined by several others, including plug-in hybrids, extended-range and electric vehicles.

These models all contain large batteries and high-voltage cables, but that shouldn't be cause for alarm. Not only are they safe to drive, but they pose no more hazard in a crash than a conventional gasoline-powered car.

"There are a number of safeguards built into them to make sure that when you're driving it, you're safe," says Sandy Di Felice, director of external affairs for Toyota Canada.

"Part of what we did, when we launched the Prius back in 2000, was to take an industry-leading position and coordinate with emergency responders to create training protocols that would help train emergency response staff."

Emergency

- First responders are constantly upgrading their skills as cars gain more technology.
- Airbags, layers of high-strength steel and other safety features can pose difficulty.
- Automakers and emergency services work together to develop training programs, and many rescue trucks contain software with vehicle schematics that can be consulted at the scene of the crash.

TOYOTA

▶ When the Prius was launched, Toyota worked with emergency responders to create training protocols for emergency response staff.

Hybrid safety in a crash is a combination of the safeguards built into the vehicle, and the training and procedures used by emergency response personnel.

Hybrid safety is engineered into the vehicle from its inception. High-voltage cables are routed away from areas where first responders normally work, and they are sheathed in metal casings and colour-coded with bright, standardized colours. They have mechanisms that shut down the power in case of emergency, and the sealed battery contains a gel rather than a liquid to minimize leaks. These safety features protect emergency personnel, technicians who work on the cars, and even vehicle owners who may poke around the car's inner workings. Di Felice says that it would actually be challenging for someone to overcome the safety features.

Emergency personnel work with automakers to understand how all vehicles are built, what safety and wiring features they contain, and the safest way to dismantle them when necessary.

Even though they may be familiar with the placement of these systems, firefighters on the scene will never simply start cutting into a car when people are trapped inside.

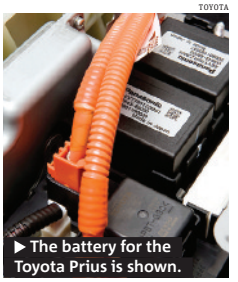
Instead, they "peel and peek," removing trim pieces to ensure that such things as airbag systems, wiring and brake lines are not in the way before they start working. This is done every single time, even if they may have dismantled a similar car in a crash the day before.

Although the hybrid power cables are routed away from areas such as the doors and rocker panels, where dismantling would be most likely, first responders will still look for them.

As all-electric vehicles arrive on the scene, many people will worry needlessly about their power cables in a crash, but as Di Felice points out, most of us drive vehicles containing large tanks of flammable fuel.

"In some respects in how an electric vehicle is configured, you're probably in a bit more of a safe situation," she says.

TOYOTA



▶ The battery for the Toyota Prius is shown.

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2011 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Sahara in Deep Cherry Red with optional body colour hard top shown.§

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▶ A 2006 Kia Rio is shown. The Rio is Kia's entry-level model.

Looking for a solid small car?

Rio looks to be a safe and affordable used-car bet, but isn't totally trouble free ◐ Watch for timing belt failure

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Kia's officially become a force to be reckoned with in the Canadian automotive marketplace — and many folks are wondering how the reliability of their older models has panned out in the long term.

After all, long-term reliability is a success factor for any automaker planning an extended stay on our shores.

The Rio is Kia's entry-level model, and a replacement to the 2006 to 2010 generation is on the horizon. Competing on price and value against models like the Toyota Yaris and Honda Fit, Kia offered the Rio up in a small sedan or five-door model with a 110-horsepower, 1.6-litre engine, front wheel drive and both automatic and manual transmission options.

Look for features like USB audio connectivity, heated mirrors, tinted glass, cruise control and air conditioning. Folding rear seats helped enhance flexibility for hauling larger items around, too.

What Owners Like

Most Rio owners say that good overall value and a good warranty attracted them to the car, while a surprisingly refined ride and peppy performance helped seal the deal. Gas mileage, headroom, comfort and even styling are also highly rated. Many Rio owners coming from comparable Toyota and Honda products agree that the Rio is a well-done small car at a reasonable price.

What Owners Hate

Rio's owner-stated downfalls deal with cheap interior plastics, rattles and squeaks as the car ages, a 'wimpy' factory stereo system and a 'plain' look to the cabin. Some drivers also wish for a quieter ride.

Common Issues

Check the used Rio for "check engine" or "airbag" lights on a test-drive. If either or both are illuminated, determine why before agreeing to purchase the vehicle. Other potential electronic issues may include headlight or tail lamp failure.

Engine and automatic transmission performance or roughness issues may also be caused by a bad sensor or computer — but have a trained Kia mechanic check to be certain.

Additionally, some owners report faster-than-expected wear of consumable parts — including tires and brakes, and to a lesser degree, suspension components. Though the longevity of these parts is largely subject to driving style and locale, a check over of the used Rio's consumable parts is highly advised, too.

Note that the Rio uses a timing belt system to control camshaft timing — and that the belt needs to be replaced regularly before it fails.

Letting the Rio's timing belt fail will stop the engine dead in its tracks and may cause catastrophic damage. Ensure the timing belt in the model you're considering isn't overdue for a change.

In light of several reports of premature timing belt failure, changing the belt ahead of schedule isn't a bad idea.

The Verdict

With the availability of remaining warranty coverage, low residual values and relatively decent reliability, a healthy used Kia Rio looks to be a fairly solid used car bet.

What's the 4-1-1

- **Model:** 2006 to 2010 Kia Rio
- **Vehicle Type:** Sedan or five-door
- **Approximate used price range:** $4,000 to $16,000

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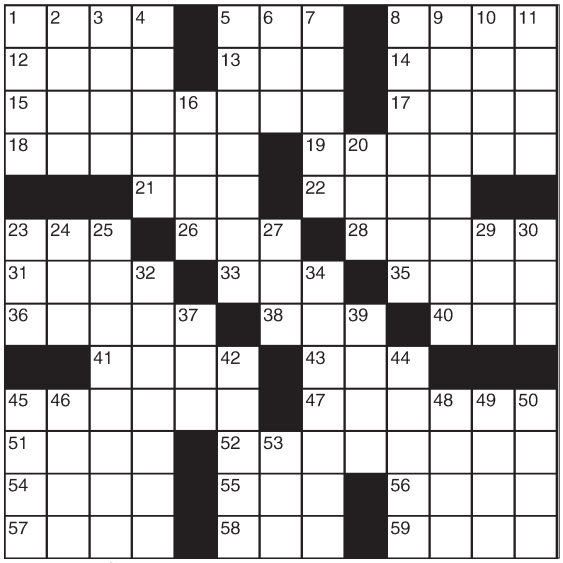

Across

1 NYPD types
5 Scratch
8 Open somewhat
12 Oil cartel
13 Have bills
14 Diamond corner
15 Something one likes
17 Met melody
18 Classify
19 "The Taking of — 1 2 3"
21 D.C. figure
22 — gin fizz
23 English channel?
26 Jewel
28 Scoundrel
31 Wander
33 Fort —, N.J.
35 Tend texts
36 Sleep disorder
38 "Glee" actress Michele
40 Pouch
41 Commanded
43 Unburden
45 Carbolic acid
47 Pizza toppings
51 Parliamentary title
52 Sports page grid
54 Shrek, for one
55 Raw mineral
56 Director Kazan
57 Autocrat
58 Existed
59 Stalk

Down

1 Caesar co-star
2 Piece of work
3 Energizes, with "up"
4 Cone contents
5 Having blotches
6 Shock and —
7 Harvests
8 Ornamental shell
9 Marines (Sl.)
10 Largest of the seven
11 Paper quantity
16 Kermit, e.g.
20 Wapiti
23 Shape shifter?
24 Conk
25 Australia's capital
27 Wire measure
29 By way of
30 List-ending abbr.
32 Gad about
34 Photocopies
37 Commotion
39 Has a bug
42 Knee counterpart
44 Cuts into cubes
45 Story line
46 Gluttons
48 Chevy hybrid
49 Great Lake
50 Fashion line?
53 — pro nobis

▶ Yesterday's answer

J	A	R	S		J	E	T		B	L	A	B
I	D	O	L		E	T	H		L	O	G	O
B	A	B	Y	B	L	U	E		U	S	E	D
E	R	E		A	L	I		N	E	E	D	Y
			B	R	O		M	O	B			
M	A	I	L	S		K	A	R	L	O	F	F
A	L	S	O		F	I	X		O	R	A	L
D	E	P	O	S	I	T		C	O	R	N	Y
			D	O	G		C	O	D			
G	A	B	B	Y		G	O	O		S	E	A
L	I	R	A		B	A	N	K	R	O	L	L
O	D	I	N		A	N	D		I	S	L	E
W	E	E	K		A	G	O		D	O	S	E

Sudoku

		4				5	9	
5	6						4	
			4		7	2		
		2			6	1		9
			3		9			
3		1	5			7		
		6	7		8			
	3						7	4
	1	5				8		

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

4	8	9	3	2	1	5	6	7
6	2	7	5	9	8	1	3	4
5	3	1	6	4	7	8	9	2
3	1	8	2	6	9	7	4	5
7	6	5	8	3	4	9	2	1
9	4	2	7	1	5	3	8	6
2	5	6	9	7	3	4	1	8
8	9	4	1	5	2	6	7	3
1	7	3	4	8	6	2	5	9

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Sally, I just wanted the world to know tht i miss u and you made the right decision <3 **DANNY**

To all of my girls....we're going to Cubes in 10 sleeps and it's going to be messssy! If group marriages are ever legal, you'll all be my hot wives. I love all of you jerks! **TRIXX ;)**

To my cuddlepuff: This is good. Also, u're gorgeous. I love you farther than any rocketship would take me. Keep smiling, I'll be home soon. **TLS <3**

Happy Birthday, Zed! May all of your wishes and dreams come true P.S. I'm falling for you too

Today 6°/-2° Variable
Thursday 8°/1° Variable
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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 As Mercury, planet of the mind, turns retrograde in your sign today, you will have to look at some of the decisions you have made in recent weeks.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Some of your old fears and worries may resurface today but it is only a passing phase, so don't be alarmed. In a matter of days, you will realize that it's all in your mind and that none of it can possibly hurt you.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 You seem to believe that if you don't push yourself, you will miss out and that others will get the applause that should have been yours. Maybe they will. But more likely, they'll get things thrown at them!

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You may be worried about where you are going, especially on the work front. But there's no need to change your plans. Trust that fate will lead you where you most need to go.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 It will pay you to rethink something you decided in the past few weeks, especially if your initial decision was made in haste. It's not often that you get the chance to go back and put things right. Don't waste it.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 What seems like bad news early in the day may turn out to be good news by the end of the day. There is no need to worry. Keep that thought in mind over the next few weeks.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 It may be tempting to withhold your approval from someone who has let you down, but is that wise? Most likely it will make the situation worse than it needs to be, so let it go.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Something is worrying you and the only way you are going to recover your peace of mind is to confide in someone you trust. Almost certainly you are overreacting but you won't know until you talk about it.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 If you let people get away with things they do not deserve to get away with, you'll regret it. Let them know there is a price to be paid for trying to push you around.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Sometimes, the best way to deal with a problem is to ignore it. That is what you must do today. Most likely what you see as a problem is just your imagination playing tricks.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Go back and take care of something that should have been dealt with weeks ago. It's not often you get a second bite at the cherry but that's what the planets are offering you now. Don't turn it down.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Others may say that plans you made earlier in the month will have to be revised in the light of new information but don't believe them. Nothing has changed. SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

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Bluetooth® Handsfree Connectivity	✓	×	×
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Heated Front Seats	✓	×	×
Rear Parking Sonar	✓	×	×

Soul 4u shown

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Voice Activated Bluetooth®	✓	×	×
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